



Daily Report

Near East & South Asia

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Inter-Arab Affairs

Seven States Agree To Hold Emergency Summit

Jewish Immigration Cited

LD2404093890 Kuwait KUNA in English 0820 GMT
24 Apr 90

[Text] Tunis, April 24 (KUNA)—Seven Arab countries so far agreed to convocation of an emergency Arab Summit formally requested by the state of Palestine.

According to press reports the summit will discuss the dangers of the Soviet Jewish immigration to occupied Palestine and Israeli threats against Iraq.

Jordan, the United Arab Emirates, Tunisia, the two Yemens, Somalia, Mauritania and Palestine informed the Arab League of their approval to hold a summit.

Kuwait Accepts Request

LD2404125390 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1142 GMT
24 Apr 90

[Text] Kuwait, 24 Apr (KUNA)—Kuwait today accepted the state of Palestine's call for an extraordinary Arab summit.

Sa'ud Muhammad al-'Usaymi, minister of state and foreign affairs, told KUNA that today Kuwait officially received a request from the state of Palestine to hold an extraordinary Arab summit during the second half of May, 1990.

Minister al-'Usaymi added that Kuwait had previously welcomed, through His Highness the crown prince and prime minister, Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah al-Salim al-Sabah, the convening of any Arab summit meeting which aims at closing Arab ranks.

Al-'Usaymi said that Kuwait has informed the Arab League General Secretariat of its acceptance of such a summit at a venue and time acceptable to the sisterly Arab states.

ACC Oil Ministers Stress 'Integrated' Industry

JN2404152890 Amman PETRA-JNA in Arabic
1430 GMT 24 Apr

[Text] Amman, 24 Apr (PETRA)—The oil ministers of the member states of the Arab Cooperation Council [ACC] have asserted that there should be persistent efforts at building an independent and integrated oil and energy industry, preserve this wealth, and conduct realistic, scientific studies to limit oil consumption, promote ways of using it as a constructive force for the ACC member states' economies, decrease reliance on foreign resources, and enhance the output capability of the Arab economic bodies.

At the end of their meeting today the oil ministers also stressed the need to preserve the stability of world oil

prices and markets as they affect developmental programs and economic planning in the oil-producing countries.

The oil minister also condemned the organized campaign led by elements hostile to the Arab nation and against Iraq, which is trying, through scientific and technological progress, to restore a strategic balance to preserve the dignity and honor of the Arab individual.

The oil ministers then agreed to set up specialized working teams to supervise oil exploration, production, refining, and processing, as well as training, exchange of expertise, energy planning, and the procurement of machinery needed to implement these activities.

Palestinian Affairs

Islamic Jihad Threatens U.S. Citizens Abroad

JN2404174890 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic
1715 GMT 24 Apr 90

[Text] The Islamic Jihad Movement-Bayt al-Maqdis, today sent a statement to the Beirut-based AL-NAHAR newspaper today in which it states that every U.S. citizen who resides in an Islamic country, or in another country, will be a target for the organization if the U.S. Senate does not retract its decision, considering Jerusalem as Israel's eternal capital, within a 10-day period.

PLO Holds Further Talks with Pelletreau

LD2404150190 Tunis TAP in Arabic 1100 GMT
24 Apr 90

[Text] Tunis, 24 Apr (TAP-WAFA)—WAFA (?has reported) that Hakam Bal'awi, the PLO representative in Tunis, held talks the day before yesterday—Sunday—with Robert Pelletreau Jr., the U.S. ambassador to Tunis, concerning relations between the PLO and the United States.

WAFA indicated that these talks—the third set in less than 15 days—follow those held last Tuesday [17 April] between Hakam Bal'awi and Edmond Hill, political adviser at the U.S. Embassy in Tunis, in connection with (?the prospects) of dialogue and relations between the PLO and the United States.

WAFA added that Mr. Bal'awi and Mr. Pelletreau met on 12 April in Tunis, and examined the latest developments related to the peace process in the Middle East, and the endeavors and contacts made on the international level to give this process a new push, and to overcome the obstacles put in its way by the Israeli conspiracies.

Mr Bal'awi reiterated on this occasion, according to WAFA, the PLO's official stance vis-a-vis the Palestinian-Israeli dialogue as a preparatory phase for the convening of an international peace conference on the Middle East.

It is noteworthy that the Palestinian-U.S. talks, which took place the day before yesterday, came after the recent meeting between Palestinian president Yasir 'Arafat and the head of the Swedish diplomatic corps, Sten Andersson, the instigator of the Palestinian-U.S. peace initiative which [words indistinct].

'Arafat on Zionist 'Threat,' Arab Summit Hopes

JN2404160190 Manama WAKH in English 1550 GMT 24 Apr 90

[Text] Doha, April 24 (GNA)—Palestinian president Yasir 'Arafat strongly warned against the threat posed by the Zionist project of great Israel on the Arab nation.

In a statement to QATAR NEWS AGENCY 'Arafat pointed out that a map showing Israel extending from the Nile River in Egypt to the Euphrates in Iraq could be seen on an Israeli coin.

Urging caution so that Arab interests would not be compromised by superpower deals, 'Arafat expressed his belief that the Arab nation has all the capabilities, means and elements of self-strength to overcome all types of obstacles.

The Palestinian leader expressed his hopes that the extraordinary summit would be held ahead of the superpower meeting which is slated for next month in Washington.

Bahraini Amir Briefed on Arab Talks by 'Arafat

JN2404192490 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1835 GMT 24 Apr 90

[Text] Manama, 24 Apr (WAKH)—This evening, His Highness Shaykh 'Isa Ibn-Salman Al Khalifah, the Bahraini amir, received state of Palestine president Yasir 'Arafat and his delegation.

During the meeting, they reviewed the latest developments regarding the Palestinian question. The Palestinian president informed his highness, the amir of Bahrain, of the situation in the occupied Arab territories, the Palestinian Arab people's intifadah in the occupied Arab territories against the Zionist enemy, and the oppression of the Palestinian people by the Israeli occupation forces.

The GULF NEWS AGENCY learned that Mr. Yasir 'Arafat informed his highness the amir of the results of his visits to Arab and foreign countries, and the results of his talks with leaders of the countries he visited in hopes of achieving a peaceful solution to the Palestinian question, giving the Palestinian people their legitimate rights in their occupied homeland, and the possibility of holding an Arab summit to confront the challenges and threats facing the Arab nation, including Jewish emigration from the Soviet Union and East European countries to occupied Palestine.

The Palestinian president expressed his appreciation for the support and backing that the Palestinian cause has

been receiving from Bahrain—amir, government, and people—in international forums.

The Bahraini amir renewed his country's support for the Palestinian question and for the Palestinian people's valiant intifadah in their occupied territories for their legitimate rights and the establishment of their independent state with its capital in Jerusalem. His highness praised the great efforts by the Palestinian chief to solve the Palestine question by peaceful means.

During the meeting, the two leaders touched on the changes in the Arab and international arenas, and on issues related to the Palestinian question.

The meeting was attended by His Highness Shaykh Hamad Ibn-'Isa Al Khalifah, heir apparent and general commander of the Defense Forces; Foreign Minister Shaykh Muhammad Bin-Mubarak Al Khalifah; Interior Minister Shaykh Muhammad Ibn-Khalifah al-Khalifah; Shaykh 'Ali Ibn-Khalifah al-Khalifah, undersecretary of the Interior Ministry's Department for Immigration and Passport Affairs; and Wafa Nabhan, ambassador of the state of Palestine to Bahrain.

'Arafat Departs Bahrain

JN2404210690 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1945 GMT 24 Apr 90

[Text] Manama, 24 Apr (WAKH)—State of Palestine president Yasir 'Arafat and his delegation left Manama this evening for Sanaa after a short visit to Bahrain as part of his tour of a number of Arab countries.

Mr. 'Arafat held talks during his visit with Bahraini Amir His Highness Shaykh 'Isa Ibn-Salman Al Khalifah and ranking officials in the state on recent developments concerning the Palestinian question, in particular, and Arab issues in general, especially issues on convening an Arab summit conference to confront the challenges facing the Arab nation, as well as current international issues and the PLO's stance on these.

He was seen off by Foreign Minister Shaykh Muhammad Ibn-Mubarak Al Khalifah and state of Palestine ambassador in Bahrain, Wafa Nabhan.

Mr. 'Arafat told the GULF NEWS AGENCY that during his meeting with Bahraini Amir, His Highness Shaykh 'Isa Ibn-Salman Al Khalifah, he discussed a number of issues, foremost among which were [words indistinct], the Palestinian question, and the events being experienced by the Arab nation, especially the dangers caused directly or indirectly by the extremely organized and large-scale Soviet Jewish emigration to Palestine.

He pointed out that the average rate of Jewish emigration, which will amount to 300,000 people within 10 years [figure as received], will pose a direct threat to national and pan-Arab security and to the future of future generations.

Mr. 'Arafat affirmed that these dangers are the primary reason for the Palestinian initiative calling for an Arab summit.

The Palestinian president described the continuing Israeli threats to the Arab nation as a whole, and Iraq in particular, as a [words indistinct] war and an attempt to maintain the Israeli upper hand which now, not only assert itself through its traditional weapons, but also has 240 nuclear warheads on top of its biological and chemical weapons.

Mr. 'Arafat added that he briefed his highness the amir of Bahrain on current developments concerning the Palestinian question from a Palestinian, Arab, and international perspective, including the recent visits he made to India, Italy, the Vatican, and France, and his meeting with former U.S. President Jimmy Carter. He also discussed the meetings of the Jerusalem Committee, which convened in Morocco and issued a clear and very strong communique on the emigration, condemning its continuation. [passage indistinct]

The Palestinian president said that all the countries he visited informed him, officially, that they agree on the decision to hold an Arab summit. Some of these countries sent their written agreements to the Arab League officially. Some are due to send their agreements shortly.

PLO, Japanese Officials Hold First Meetings

LD2404194790 Algiers Voice of Palestine
in Arabic 1602 GMT 24 Apr 90

[Text] This morning, the first meeting began between PLO and Japanese officials within the framework of the agreement, in principle, reached during Abu-'Ammar's visit to Japan last October. The Palestinian team is headed by the director general of the Economic Department, and the Japanese delegation is led by the director of the Middle East Department of the Foreign Ministry. The meeting will deal with the overall issue of bilateral relations and the exchange of views on the peace process in the Middle East. A Palestinian official said he will ask Japan to assist the Palestinians in creating jobs and in building hospitals and cultural institutions in the occupied land.

OPEC Affairs

Iranian Newspaper Predicts Falling Oil Prices

LD2304161690 Tehran IRNA in English 1514 GMT
23 Apr 90

[Text] Tehran, April 23, IRNA—A Persian daily said Monday that unless the Organization of Petroleum-Exporting Countries (OPEC) convinces its members about the wisdom behind the quota system and unless it enlists the cooperation of non-OPEC producers, the world will witness even a sharper fall in oil prices in the coming months.

In its commentary, KAYHAN noted that the oil ministers of Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, and the United Arab Emirates [UAE], "although themselves being personally responsible for having glutted the oil market," convened in Jeddah last week to review the international status of oil and the reasons for its falling prices. In the meanwhile Saudi oil ministers warned members against producing beyond assigned quotas.

"Despite the warning," said the daily "the three violating members of OPEC continue to show an inclination to increasing the assigned production quotas, though outwardly they show sympathetic feelings with the rest of OPEC members for stabilizing prices, and pretend to show a preference for lowering quotas."

It thought that "perhaps the forthcoming OPEC meet would do well to convince the three members of the wisdom of the 13-member organization's new quotas and perhaps the group of three can be brought to commit themselves to observing those quotas without adverse effects to the organization at large."

KAYHAN took up the issue of glutting, and thought that the falling of market demand to two million barrels per day was "not an issue peculiar solely to this year or the last year." The end of the cold season as well as the stockpiling of oil by consumer countries has been regularly responsible for the drop in the international demand for oil, it added, "though this time other reasons, too, account for the abnormal fall in oil prices."

"This day last year the Iranian oil sold at \$17.75 per barrel at the European market. Today, because of the waywardness of the three disobedient OPEC members the Iranian oil sells only at \$13.75 per barrel," pointed out the daily.

It continued that late last week the oil ministers of Kuwait and the UAE conceded that the extra production of certain OPEC states was in part responsible for falling oil prices. "The two simply stressed the effect of extra production without singling out their own states as violators of the OPEC quotas. Oil experts on the same day said surplus production of OPEC members had slashed another three dollars off the price of oil internationally," said the paper.

To check any further slump in oil prices, KAYHAN suggested that "OPEC members would do well to first demonstrate their solidarity, second, allow higher quotas only to members which honestly deserve it, and third convince non-OPEC members to observe a restricted production policy, and prove to them that the international situation warrants their cooperation."

The article concluded that the scheduled May 25 meeting of OPEC "needs an agreement and a resolution to resolve all those propositions in a manner promising increased prices in the subsequent period."

Egypt**Exports to USSR Suspended; Trade Deficit Cited***JN2404184890 Cairo ROSE AL-YUSUF in Arabic
23 Apr 90 p 18*

[Text] Dr. Yusri Mustafa, minister of economy and foreign trade, has decided to suspend Egyptian exports to Soviet markets, although there are contracts signed by Egyptian exporters to this effect. The decision was justified by the balance-of-trade deficit between Egypt and the USSR which amounts to 180 million pounds sterling in Egypt's favor, and that there are no Soviet goods or raw materials which Egypt could import.

This decision was also applied to all exporters who concluded contracts after February of this year. The minister promised to reconsider the contracts that have been postponed until June to grant case-by-case permission within the framework of what will and can be imported from the Soviet Union.

Moscow Embassy Denies Aiding Jewish Emigration*PM2404160990 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT
in Arabic 24 Apr 90 p 4*

[Text] Cairo—Diplomatic sources in Cairo have emphasized to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that the Egyptian Embassy in Moscow grants Egyptian entry visas only to holders of ordinary passports, provided they produce round-trip tickets, and that it does not grant visas at all to holders of special passports.

The sources pointed out that Egypt has not been and would never be a transit point for the immigration of Soviet Jews to Israel, that it has never allowed such a thing, and that all rumors concerning this matter are completely unfounded and unjustified.

The sources reaffirmed that the immigration of Soviet Jews and attempts to settle Jewish groups in the occupied Arab territories, in fact, constitute a violation of territorial, political and economic rights and are without legal foundation and are contrary to all international laws.

Mubarak To Pay First Visit to Moscow in May*PM2504091590 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT
in Arabic 24 Apr 90 p 1*

[Unattributed report: "Mubarak To Visit Moscow 14 May"]

[Excerpt] Moscow, Cairo—AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT has learned that Egyptian President Husni Mubarak will arrive in Moscow on 14 May on his first official visit to the Soviet Union.

According to informed diplomatic sources, the visit will last three days, during which a number of economic and cultural agreements will be signed.

Soviet sources say that President Mikhail Gorbachev will discuss with the Egyptian president all the bilateral

issues not tackled at this level for 18 years, that is since former President Anwar al-Sadat's visit to the Soviet Union in 1972.

They add that Gorbachev is prepared to discuss all issues which the Egyptians care to raise, including the problem of the emigration of Soviet Jews to Israel, as part of an overall discussion encompassing all aspects of the Middle East problem. [passage omitted]

President Mubarak Telephones Regional Leaders*NC2404145790 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1430 GMT
24 Apr 90*

[Text] Cairo, 24 Apr (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak telephoned Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad this afternoon.

The two fraternal presidents discussed the future of bilateral relations. Agreement was reached during the conversation on President Mubarak's expected visit to fraternal Syria which will be announced soon.

The telephone conversation took place after President Mubarak's meeting with Dr. 'Isa Darwish, Syria's new ambassador in Cairo, who presented his credentials to President Mubarak.

President Mubarak also telephoned Lieutenant General 'Umar Hasan Ahmad al-Bashir, chairman of the Revolution Command Council in Sudan, this afternoon.

Sudan**Further on Coup Attempt Aftermath****No 'Confrontation,' 'Casualties'***EA2404125290 Khartoum SUNA in French 0950 GMT
24 Apr 90*

[Text] Khartoum, 24 April (SUNA)—Mr. Muhammad Khawjali Salihin, the minister of information and culture and government spokesman, has confirmed that the failed coup attempt was foiled without confrontation and casualties.

Salihin indicated during his press conference on the evening of 23 April, in Khartoum, that the 30 officers implicated in the attempt had been arrested. Among them were Retired Major General Husayn al-Kadru and (Rtd) Brigadier Muhammad 'Uthman Ahmad Karrar.

Mr. Salihin also denied reports which said that fighting was still going on in Khartoum.

RCC's Khalifah Comments*EA2404172590 Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic
1930 GMT 23 Apr 90*

[Text] Staff Colonel Muhammad al-Amin Khalifah, member of the Revolution Command Council [RCC] and chairman of the national peace dialogue conference, stressed that the just-overturned conspiracy was an

extension of what happened earlier. He said: The National Salvation Revolution has become the property of all the Sudanese people and is capable of foiling any conspiracy.

Addressing an extraordinary session of the national peace dialogue conference at Friendship Hall this morning, Colonel Khalifah praised the security forces and the people for cooperating with them in exposing the conspiracy. His excellency outlined the revolution's efforts to bring peace to the country, saying: The government's program, in this context, has been accepted both at home and abroad. He said that the forum of the national dialogue represented the views of the Sudanese people, and that the government was proceeding to hand over authority to the people.

He outlined the dimensions of the vicious campaigns being mounted against Iraq and Libya, stressing that these moves were aimed against the Arab world. Colonel Khalifah announced that the anticipated political organization would soon be established. [sentence as heard]

He said that the national dialogue conference would resume its proceedings in the future. He said that a delegation will go to Iraq to express support for, and solidarity with, the fraternal Iraqi people. The participants declared their support for the National Salvation Revolution.

Khalifah Comments Further

EA2404210990 Khartoum SUNA in French 1520 GMT
24 Apr 90

[Text] Khartoum 24 April (SUNA)—Colonel Muhammad al-Amin Khalifah, RCC member and chairman of the national peace dialogue conference, has confirmed that the revolution is going to confront all plots against the Sudan.

In a statement to the press, Col. Khalifah said that enemies of peace and progress were behind the abortive coup attempt, adding that the plot was an extension of previous attempts, [words indistinct] external plots against the Sudan and in coordination with the rebel movement, to distort the national identity, he added. Furthermore, the NSRCC member observed that Mubarak al-Mahdi's participation in Garang's movement came within the framework of plots against the Sudan.

Furthermore, Col. Khalifah said that the conspirators had designed the plot to ruin the revolution's serious efforts aimed at bringing peace to the country.

Khartoum 'Stable'

EA2404173690 Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic
1930 GMT 23 Apr 90

[Text] This evening, Mr. Muhammad Khawjali Salihin, the minister of information and culture, and the official government spokesman, held a press conference at the behest of Lieutenant General 'Umar Hasan Ahmad

al-Bashir, chairman of the Revolution Command Council and of the Council of Ministers, with the objective of providing the citizens with the facts.

His excellency referred to reports by foreign media to the effect that fighting was still in progress in Khartoum. He said the situation was stable and life was proceeding normally in Khartoum. His excellency said the attempt had been an extension of the earlier attempt which was exposed last March. He said the security forces had ascertained the names of the officers participating in the attempt, and stressed that steps were then taken to bring the situation under control. All the officers participating in the attempt were then arrested.

The official government spokesman said that involvement in the attempt had been limited to a few units in the national capital. The commanders were Major General (rtd) Husayn al-Kadru and Air Force Brigadier (rtd) Muhammad 'Uthman Ahmad Karrar [word indistinct] armored car corps in Shajarah [area in Khartoum] and the two turned themselves over to the security forces.

His excellency added that 30 officers on active service and retired had been involved in the attempt. He stressed that no civilians have been arrested. He said that the interrogation of those arrested had begun. He stressed that no losses had been incurred because the situation had been contained rapidly and peacefully. The participants in the attempt have been disarmed.

Military Courts To Try Plotters

EA2404191390 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1430 GMT
24 Apr 90

[Text] Khartoum, 24 Apr (SUNA)—Lieutenant General 'Umar Hasan al-Bashir, chairman of the Revolution Command Council and commander in chief of the people's Armed Forces, yesterday set up military courts [words indistinct] to try those who participated in the coup attempt.

In accordance with the powers vested in his excellency by the Armed Forces law [words indistinct] processes of the Armed Forces [word indistinct] article 4Y of the Armed Forces law authorizes the commander in chief to place any individual who has committed high treason or [words indistinct] the Armed Forces to the Armed Forces law, subject to the approval of the attorney general. The attorney general has approved that all those who participated in the coup attempt yesterday be given a military trial, be they serving or retired members of the armed forces.

SUNA notes that the article under which the accused will be charged is Article 47a of the Armed Forces Law of 1406 (?A.H.) and (?Article) 96 of the Sudanese Criminal Law of 1983. It is known that these extraordinary measures are usually applied under emergency situations.

More on Military Courts

AB2404123090 Paris AFP in English 1021 GMT
24 Apr 90

[Text] Khartoum, April 24 (AFP)—Field tribunals have been set up and have already begun trying some of the 30 officers accused of attempting to overthrow Sudan's military government headed by General 'Umar al-Bashir, state television said today.

Al-Bashir announced Monday [23 April] that forces loyal to the government had crushed a coup bid by young officers and retired Army veterans and that all those involved had been arrested. It was the second coup attempt against his regime within a month.

Gen. Al-Bashir said the coup had been planned by the "alliance formed to compromise with the outlaws"—a reference to an accord reached last month in Cairo between Sudanese opposition parties in exile and the Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA), which has been fighting central government since 1983.

Sudanese television said several people implicated in the coup attempt were being judged, but did not identify them.

A government spokesman had earlier named the alleged coup leaders as Retired Generals 'Abd al-Qadir al-Kadru and Muhammad 'Uthman Ahmad Karrar.

The spokesman, General Muhammad Khawjali Salihin, had made no reference to field tribunals during a press conference he gave late Monday. He said then that the officers were being interrogated and that as a condition for their surrender they had been given assurances that they would be tried impartially.

Political observers here said the announcement that field tribunals had been set up and had already begun hearings suggested that the alleged plotters would be dealt with swiftly and severely.

State radio in Omdurman, Khartoum's twin city, continued to broadcast messages of support for Gen. Al-Bashir. This morning the radio broadcast appeals from student leaders at Khartoum University and the local branch of Cairo University and from "People's Committees" for a mass demonstration of support for the junta Tuesday night.

28 Executed

EA2404165890 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1440 GMT
24 Apr 90

[Text] Khartoum, 24 Apr (SUNA)—The following perpetrators of the attempt to take power by force at dawn on Monday, 23 April 1990, have been executed by shooting:

1. Major General (rtd) Kh'Alid al-Zayn 'Ali [Air Force commander in 1989]
2. Major General (rtd) 'Uthman Idris Balulah
3. Major General (rtd) Husayn Abd al-Qadir al-Kadru

4. Brigadier (rtd) Muhammad 'Uthman Ahmad Karrar [Eastern Region governor in 1989]
5. Staff Colonel Ismat Mirghani Taha
6. Staff Colonel Bashir Mustafa Bashir
7. Staff Colonel (rtd) Muhammad Ahmad Qasim
8. Colonel Salah al-Sayyid Husayn
9. Lieutenant Colonel Bashir Amir Abu Dik
10. Lieutenant Colonel Muhammad 'Abd al-Aziz Ibrahim
11. Lieutenant Colonel (rtd) al-Sayyid Husayn 'Abd al-Rahim
12. Lieutenant Colonel (rtd) 'Abd al-Mun'im Hasan 'Ali Karrar
13. Lieutenant Colonel (rtd) Bashir al-Tayyib Muhammad S'Alih
14. Major (?Salah al-Dardiri Babikr)
15. Major al-Fatih Khalid Khalil
16. Major Usamah al-Zayn Abdallah
17. Major Babikr 'Abd al-Rahman Nuqallah
18. Air Force Major Akram al-Fatih Yusuf
19. Major al-Shaykh al-Baqir al-Shaykh
20. Major Mu'awiyah Yasin 'Ali
21. Major Nihad Isma'il Hamidah
22. Major Isam Din Abu al-Qasim Muhammad
23. Major (rtd) al-Fatih Ahmad Ilyas
24. Major (rtd) Sid Ahmad S'Alih
25. Major (rtd) Taj al-Din Fath al-Rahman
26. Captain Muddathir Muhammad Mahjub
27. Air Force Captain Mustafa Awad Khawj'Ali
28. Captain (rtd) 'Abd al-Mun'im Khasr Kumayr

The military court acquitted Air Force Colonel Hasan Abdallah Ata. The military court is continuing to try the rest of the participants, and further news on this will be reported as soon as it is available.

'Tense Situation' After Executions

JN2404180790 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic
1705 GMT 24 Apr 90

[Text] The extraordinary military court in Khartoum issued a death sentence on 28 officers accused of participating in the unsuccessful coup attempt in Sudan. Among those executed were three Major Generals: Khalid al-Zayn, 'Uthman Dallul, and Husayn al-Qadru. Brigadier General Muhammad 'Uthman Karrar was also executed, as well as four colonels, 12 lieutenant colonels, five majors, and three captains.

Informed Sudanese sources affirmed that the trial was quick and that the accused did not have any legal guarantees ensuring the fairness of the trial.

Today, the number of those accused reached 38 officers, some of them in service and others on retainer. It was also learned today that the major reason for the coup's failure was that one of the officers informed Lieutenant General al-Bashir of the attempt, and that the coup forces were taken by surprise by government forces and Islamic Front militias, which besieged them from all sides.

Concerning this issue, it was mentioned that Military Council Member Major Ibrahim Shams-al-Din was lying in wait, along with his forces, for the coupists at the Armed Forces Command headquarters.

At this moment, a tense situation continues to prevail at some of the pro-coupists' Sudanese Army military camps, especially at the al-Shajarah camp, the Air Force base, and a paratrooper base in the northern region.

This afternoon, the first Sudanese plane arrived in Cairo after Sudanese forces permitted flights to resume.

Tunisia

Premier Urges Separation of Politics, Religion

LD2404101990 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic
2300 GMT 23 Apr 90

[Text] Safeguarding the essence of religion and the eternal nature of its message are most important duties of the state and it is most dangerous to mix religion and politics, especially considering that religion is constant and politics is variable and any intent to make a constant subject to a variable only leads to the violation of the sanctity of religion by using it in spheres which God did not prescribe for it. This is what Prime Minister Hamed Karoui affirmed during a dinner banquet which he hosted at the guest house in Carthage yesterday evening, as instructed by President Zine el Abidine Ben Ali, in honor of imams, preachers, and religious personalities in the provinces of Tunis, Ben Arous, and Ariana.

In this respect, the prime minister recalled what was conveyed by President Ben Ali in one of his speeches

which said that only the state, which represents (the trust) in its modern sense, is the first one responsible for the protection of religion and for guaranteeing freedom to practice it. He explained that the truth of religion is that the latter is above arbitrary views and changes of opinion and stances. Violation of this central truth is the biggest barrier to society making progress impelled by Islam and to Muslims shouldering the responsibility of God's vice-regency on earth.

Hamed Karoui went on to analyze the dangers of mixing religion and politics and said in this respect that dragging religion into politics generates discord and destroys determination and ranks. All conflicts directed at this are consequently [word indistinct] from the main path of truth and it is enough to follow their stages by [word indistinct] that they carry within them the causes for their rapid perdition, particularly in this Maleki Tunisia where the values of tolerance and moderation have flourished from the beginning. These values represent two essential concepts in Islamic thought—hope, work, and wise conciliation between the personal and general interest and between the requirements of religion and earthly matters. [sentence as heard] He explained in this respect that for this reason it is important to recall that nobody has the right to appoint himself as an intermediary between man and his God and nobody has the right to claim that he monopolizes absolute truth or (goes astray) and accuse anyone, who disagrees with him that religion is for all and is the common denominator, as being a nonbeliever. The prime minister affirmed that the state is determined to continue carrying out its duty to serve religion.

On this occasion, Mr. Hamed Karoui handed awards to those who won the first national competition of the Holy Koran which the head of state gave permission to organize.

Kuwait

Dailies Comment on Interim National Council

LD2404165690 Kuwait KUNA in English 0842 GMT
24 Apr 90

[Text] Kuwait, April 24 (KUNA)—"This country will never lose direction in the wake of his highness the amir granting the decision of the interim National Council and we now realise that have reached a happy ending which was expected, simply because we are aware that we are under [word indistinct] leader," Kuwaiti daily ARAB TIMES said Tuesday [sentence as received].

Writing editorially, the English-language paper said any further clarification was provided by Sheikh Saad, when he unfolded the scenario during a reception to KUNA's chairman and director general and the editors in chief of local dailies yesterday.

Thus, Kuwait remains the same country with its well known and well entrenched norms, traditions and features. In this context, decisions are not taken in haste and in all cases, public and national interests are accorded primary concern, it stressed.

These and other facts have been confirmed yesterday by his highness the crown prince and premier who insisted that the Kuwaiti formula for politics and life as an entity will continue to be clear and in harmony with each other.

The paper said in the comment which also appeared on its Arabic-language twin AL-WEYASSAH that what will transpire during the interim period in Kuwait, has already occurred in many democratic countries in the past. Such countries had repeatedly stopped their democratic process for a while, revised their presumptions and resumed practices after developing the march.

Also commenting editorially on the same subject, Arabic-language daily AL-RAI AL-AAM praised his highness the amir's address, which he delivered on Sunday on the occasion of the last ten days of Ramadan, and described it as "detailed, historical and a foundation for upcoming era."

It said the amiri announcement was a result of extensive dialogue with vast sectors of the Kuwaiti society including the opposition.

Meanwhile, daily AL-ANBA praised Sheikh Saad's pivotal role in the dialogue and commended his ability as "a negotiator who never rushes to ends but rather bridges views and seeks the truth".

This is why his highness the amir entrusted Sheikh Saad with a historical mission represented by opening a democratic dialogue with all Kuwaiti political, economic and social powers on reviving and expanding the parliamentary life in Kuwait, the paper wrote.

Qatar

Amir, 'Arafat Meet; Talks Include Arab Summit

JN2404110190 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0940 GMT
24 Apr 90

[Text] Doha, 24 Apr (WAKH)—Qatari Amir His Highness Shaykh Khalifah Bin-Hamad Al Thani received Palestinian president Yasir 'Arafat today.

Attending the meeting were His Highness Shaykh Hamad Bin-Khalifah Al Thani, heir apparent and defense minister, and Shaykh 'Abdallah Bin-Khalifah, minister of interior. The delegation accompanying the Palestinian president and Palestinian ambassador in Doha Yasin al-Sharif attended on the Palestinian side.

The talks dealt with the latest developments in the Palestine question and the current Arab situation. The talks also dealt with preparations for an emergency Arab summit at the PLO's request to discuss the dangers posed by the immigration of Soviet Jews to Israel and their settlement in the occupied Arab territories, as well as Israel's threats to the Arab states.

Doha Supports 'Palestine State' Call for Summit

JN2404155190 Manama WAKH in English 1515 GMT
24 Apr 90

[Text] Doha, April 24 (GNA)—The state of Qatar has declared its support for the Palestine state call to convene an extraordinary Arab summit conference to discuss "dangers surrounding the Arab world and threats targetting pan-Arab security."

A Foreign Ministry statement issued today said the stand of the state of Qatar concerning the convening of an Arab summit is identical to the Palestinian view point which fully appreciates the repercussions and dangers of the prevalent situation.

Qatar urged that the summit is speedily well prepared for so as to ensure reaching effective and appropriate decisions to stave off the dangers of the current phase, especially the immigration and settlement of Soviet Jews in the occupied lands and the Israel threats to pan-Arab security.

Yemen Arab Republic

Salih, Saudi King Discuss Relations, Arab Issues

JN2404131890 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic
1200 GMT 24 Apr 90

[Text] A telephone conversation was held this morning between brother Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the Republic, commander in chief of the Armed Forces, and secretary general of the General People's Congress, and King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, custodian of the two holy mosques. During their talk, the two leaders exchanged greetings on blessed Ramadan and

the happy 'Id al-Fitr. They also reviewed relations between the two fraternal countries, developments in the Arab arena, and international issues of mutual interest.

The president leader then briefed his brother King Fahd on the unionist steps and the results of the historic Sanaa meeting of the unified Yemeni leadership designed to speed up the unification process of the Yemeni homeland and establish the one Yemeni state, which will be a factor of security and stability in the region and a practical step toward achieving comprehensive Arab unity.

For his part, King Fahd stressed Yemeni unity represents the will of the one Yemeni people—a unity that will be achieved through understanding and dialogue among brothers.

Leaders From North, South Yemen Discuss Unity

South Yemeni Officials Arrive

JN2004112890 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic
1700 GMT 19 Apr 90

[Excerpt] Brother 'Ali Salim al-Bid, secretary general of the Central Committee of the Yemeni Socialist Party [YSP], arrived in Sanaa today to take part in the first full meeting of the political command of the one Yemeni homeland. The following received him: Brother Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the Republic, commander in chief of the Armed Forces, and secretary general of the General People's Congress [GPC]; members of the Consultative Council, the YSP Political Bureau, and the GPC General Committee; ministers; and Standing Committee members.

Also arriving in Sanaa this afternoon to attend the meeting were brother Haydar Abu-Bakr al-'Attas, Political Bureau member and chairman of the Supreme People's Council Presidium; Dr. Yasin Sa'id Nu'man, Political Bureau member and prime minister; and a number of Political Bureau, Central Committee, and cabinet members. [passage omitted]

Unity Summit Opens

JN2004113890 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic
1700 GMT 19 Apr 90

[Excerpt] This afternoon the first full meeting of the political command of the one Yemeni homeland opened in Sanaa, the capital of the unionist state, under the chairmanship of brothers Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the Republic, commander in chief of the Armed Forces, and secretary general of the General People's Congress, and 'Ali Salim al-Bid, secretary general of the Yemeni Socialist Party.

President Salih spoke at the beginning of the meeting, noting that the meeting was a continuation of previous ones held by the homeland's command, beginning with the historic meeting in Aden and the following ones in

Ta'izz and Aden. He said: We are continuing our meetings to discuss ways to fulfill our noble goal of restoring Yemeni unity.

He said the meeting is of great importance and historic because it is at the highest level.

Brother al-Bid then spoke, expressing happiness for the meeting and for the great enthusiasm in both parts of Yemen, which comes towards the end of the blessed month of Ramadan. He said such a meeting will measure up to the aspirations and will of our Yemeni people. He added: We direct the entire political command, with all its institutions, to assume its unionist tasks, steps, and program leading to 30 November. We are all here; all members of the Political Bureau, and we wish our common action success in leading the Yemeni homeland. [passage omitted]

Further on Talks

JN2004183290 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic
1700 GMT 20 Apr 90

[Text] An important joint meeting was held this afternoon at the presidential palace in the capital of the unity state, Sanaa, between the General Committee of the General People's Congress [GPC] and the Political Bureau of the Yemeni Socialist Party [YSP], chaired by brothers Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the Republic, commander in chief of the Armed Forces, and GPC secretary general, and 'Ali Salim al-Bid, secretary general of the YSP Central Committee.

During the meeting they discussed the various issues pertaining to unity action and studied the appropriate means to take further practical and progressive steps toward realizing the Yemeni homeland's unity and guaranteeing a speedy announcement on the establishment of the united Yemeni state—the Yemeni republic—the great strategic goal of the Yemeni revolution and the popular Yemeni masses.

The meeting also paused before evaluating all the successive unity activities witnessed by the Yemeni arena since the historic Aden agreement on 30 November 1989, foremost of which were the work of the unity committees and the unity measures of the various official and popular bodies and institutions.

Satisfaction was expressed during the meeting at the important and progressive results achieved on the level of unity work, guaranteeing that the unity state will consolidate its towering construction on modern and firm foundations, on which the sons of the Yemeni people will enjoy a prosperous, democratic, and developed life. It will also strengthen the role of united Yemen to shoulder its national and humanitarian duties and perpetuate its past glories and ancient civilization.

The meeting also discussed the aspects of organizational relations between the GPC and the YSP, and their joint role in encouraging the goal of the Yemeni people for

unity, development, and prosperity with the participation of all nationalists in the Yemeni arena who believe in the goals of the Yemeni revolution.

It is noteworthy here that this joint meeting is considered the first between the leaderships of the GPC and YSP, represented by the General Committee and the Political Bureau since their establishment, befitting the climate of confidence and understanding brought about by the historic Aden agreement and the continuous unity meetings between the national leadership of the united Yemen.

Newspaper Sees 'Theatrics' in Hostage Release

JN2404134490 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0610 GMT
24 Apr 90

[Text] Baghdad, 24 Apr (INA)—The newspaper AL-THAWRAH says the Arab nation, which is now experiencing a revival and a renewed commitment to its role, position, and rights, is capable of defending itself, will never ignore or submit to threats and challenges, and will not be deceived by maneuvers. This is the main condition for victory.

In an editorial under the headline "The Presence of the Will," it adds: What is taking place now is a major political battle in which Iraq embodies the Arab nation's free will against the enemies of the nation, who since the beginning of this century have successively practiced occupation, plundering, control, and aggression.

The paper adds: While the exposed game is continuing, the big and small players have continued their attempts to fabricate accusations against Iraq. In fact, these players are premeditatedly trying to deluge world opinion with a series of stories that are based on lies concocted at this or that port where customs men turned into experts in military industries, tubes into giant guns, and capacitors into triggers, as well as other similar allegations that collapse in the face of scientific and commercial facts.

The newspaper adds: Although the lies have been exposed and accusations collapsed, the players, who have become shameless, have continued their conspiracy. They have continued to provide the news media with fresh stories with the objective of continuing their accusations against Iraq, and consequently paving the way for an aggression.

The paper adds: At the same time as this exposed game is going on, the major player with the [words indistinct] teeth, the United States portrays itself as a peaceful state whose citizens are prey to kidnapping by Palestinian and Arab "gangs." An operation has taken place to beautify the faces of the brokers in Tehran and Damascus, and theatrics have been staged over the release of the hostages amid a media uproar to divert the world public's attention from the destiny of an entire people who are suffering occupation, repression, and killing from U.S. weapons and Zionist hands. Amid this uproar, the Arabs are turned into accused and irresponsible parties not worthy of any role, ambition, or rights.

The paper points out these players have continued to scorn the Arab nation in a manner that exposes their schemes against the Arab nation's sovereignty, role, wealth, resources, and rights. This is why they have focused on Iraq because it has never been small either in its actions and policies or in its stance and will. No one, even if he were very hostile to Iraq, can claim Iraq has ever been a kidnapper or a broker. In fact, our enemies had hoped Iraq would be one of those who play small

games so the nation's attention can be diverted from the main tragedy. The nation was lucky, however, and they were unlucky when they failed to distract Iraq from development and from defending its sovereignty, dignity, and rights.

Concluding, the paper says: Victory begins with one's self. President Saddam Husayn has awakened the Arabs' will. Thus, the Arab will is now present with all its strength and awareness. This is a new dawn that has risen from Iraq, the maker of the Arabs' victory in the contemporary age and their lofty fortress.

Baghdad, Amman Renew Oil Exploration Accord

JN2404195390 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1600 GMT
24 Apr 90

[Text] Amman, 24 Apr (INA)—Iraq and Jordan signed here today the minutes for renewing the validity of the technical cooperation agreement between the Iraqi State Establishment for Oil Exploration and Gas and the Jordanian Natural Resources Authority.

In accordance with the agreement, the Iraqi side will provide aid to the Jordanian side in seismology, excavation, and reclamation; complete the construction and testing of wells; carry out primary geological surveys; and provide expertise and equipment for testing wells, and for rehabilitation and training.

The agreement was signed on 10 October 1982 and in accordance with the minutes will be renewed automatically every year.

The minutes were signed on the Iraqi side by Oil Minister 'Isam 'Abd-al-Rahim al-Jalabi and on the Jordanian side by Energy and Mineral Resources Minister Thabit al-Tahir.

In a press statement after signing the minutes, al-Tahir praised the aid given by Iraq to Jordan since the agreement was signed.

Mr. al-Jalabi is currently visiting Jordan to take part in the second meeting of the Arab Cooperation Council oil ministers, which concluded its meetings here today.

Bush Sends Saddam Congratulations on 'Id al-Fitr

JN2504095890 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0850 GMT
25 Apr 90

[Text] Baghdad, 25 Apr (INA)—President Saddam Husayn has received a cable of congratulations from U.S. President George Bush on the occasion of the blessed 'Id al-Fitr. The following is the text of the cable:

Dear Mr. President, it is a great pleasure to extend to you and to the Iraqi people my best wishes on the occasion of the blessed 'Id al-Fitr. I express my sincere wish that the Iraqi people will continue to enjoy the blessings of peace, and that relations between Iraq and the United States will contribute to peace and stability in the Middle East.

Reports on Release of Shiite Prisoners Denied

TA2404192590 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew
1800 GMT 24 Apr 90

[Text] Security sources in Israel this evening denied reports alleging that Israel intends to release dozens of Shiite prisoners being held in al-Khiyam prison in south Lebanon as part of a deal on releasing the U.S. hostages held in Lebanon.

Our army affairs correspondent Moshe Shlonsky reports that this afternoon General Antoine Lahd, commander of the South Lebanese Army [SLA], released four prisoners from al-Khiyam prison as a gesture on the occasion of 'Id al-Fitr. The four live in the security zone and were not involved in terror activities, but were imprisoned for relatively minor offenses, such as trying to enlist in a terror organization.

[Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew at 1900 GMT on 24 April adds: "Gen. Lahd has notified Shiite dignitaries from villages in south Lebanon's security zone that contrary to previous years, this year prisoners will not be released from the al-Khiyam prison on the eve of 'Id al-Fitr. Lahd said the reason for this decision was the interest voiced in the international media related to the release of the U.S. hostage this week. Our correspondent Hayim Hecht notes the dignitaries were utterly outraged by the decision and sent very harshly-worded messages on the matter to Jerusalem. According to them, the reasons for delaying the release are irrelevant."]

Likud Accords With Degel Hatora, Other Factions

TA2404160790 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew
1400 GMT 24 Apr 90

[By party affairs correspondent Yaron Deqel]

[Text] Most of the details in the agreements the Likud has signed have already been published, but today the Likud released for media publication copies of the full agreements that have been signed with SHAS [Torah Observing Sephardim], Degel Hatora, and Yitzhaq Moda'i's faction. The Likud did this following the injunction issued by the High Court of Justice approximately two weeks ago, instructing the parties to show cause why they should not publish the coalition agreements they have signed.

So what is new? In its accord with Degel Hatora, the Likud pledged to give that party Cabinet representation, whether it heads a unity government or a narrow-based one. The Likud also said it would honor the agreement stipulating that the Treasury would transfer 96 million shekels to various institutions.

In both its agreements with SHAS and Degel Hatora, the Likud pledged not to change the electoral system, not to raise the minimum quota required for a Knesset seat, and not to pass the human rights bill in the Knesset unless this is preceded by coordination with the two ultraorthodox parties.

Degel Hatora, for its part, undertook to support and participate only in a government headed by the Likud.

As for SHAS, it will receive two ministerial posts, as well as a deputy ministerial position in either a unity government or a narrow-based one. The Likud undertook to set up a committee which will draw up, within six months, blueprints for an infrastructure for a radio channel to instill Jewish values.

The third agreement, that with Yitzhaq Moda'i, was given wide publicity approximately a week ago during the Likud Central Committee meeting.

The Likud did not disclose the draft accord with the Ometz faction led by Knesset Members Hurvitz and Shoval, which promises them two seats on the next Knesset ticket. That agreement has not yet been endorsed by the Likud institutions, and that is why it was not reported.

The Alignment has not yet published its coalition agreements, either with Agudat Yisrael, Avraham Sharir, HADASH [Democratic Front for Peace and Equality], the Progressive List for Peace, or MK Darawshah.

MK Mizrahi, Likud Sign Accord on Government

TA2504054790 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
0500 GMT 25 Apr 90

[Text] The Likud and Knesset Member [MK] Eli'ezer Mizrahi signed an agreement last night. If the Likud sets up a government, MK Mizrahi will become a deputy minister; funds will be allocated for religious studies and the restoration of neighborhoods, as well as additional building in the sector he represents.

Injunction Against Mizrahi; Moda'i Meets Shamir

TA2504103290 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
0900 GMT 25 Apr 90

[Text] The rabbinical court in Jerusalem has issued a preventive order which forbids Knesset Member [MK] Eli'ezer Mizrahi from taking actions which run counter to the decision of the Council of the Torah Sages. Our correspondent Avraham Salomon reports that the order was issued ex parte at the appeal of Me'ir Seidman and Yehoshu'a Me'ir, which was submitted by Attorney Me'ir Schechter. MK Mizrahi was summoned to a hearing of the appeal at the beginning of next week. The injunction was signed by court justices Rabbis Shilo Refael, Avraham Elmaliach, and Eliyahu 'Atzur. [Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew at 0930 GMT on 25 April adds: "An announcement by the spokesman of the Habad Hasidic sect states that the Jerusalem rabbinical court is not accepted as a supreme authority; it is rather the Lubavitcher rabbi's ruling which is the only authority. Namely, it is up to Mizrahi to accept or reject the Jerusalem rabbinical court's ruling."]

Our political correspondent Arye Golan reports this morning Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir met with Minister Yitzhaq Moda'i to persuade him to support the Likud. During the meeting, Mr. Shamir suggested an undertaking which goes beyond the written agreement [with the breakaway Liberals] whereby a unity government will not be established without Moda'i's consent. Minister Moda'i left the meeting with the prime minister to think things over. He will meet the prime minister again this afternoon.

Our correspondent Yo'el Nir reports there is a great deal of tension in the Likud's leadership for fear Minister Moda'i intends to join the Alignment. Urgent consultations are currently under way at the Prime Minister's Office.

This morning Deputy Prime Minister David Levi also talked with Minister Moda'i in an attempt to persuade him not to join the Alignment. Moda'i answered, however, that he does not trust the prime minister's promises.

Reportage on Visit by CSFR's Havel, Delegation

Offers Emigration Transit Point

*TA2404180290 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English
1700 GMT 24 Apr 90*

[Text] Czechoslovakian President Vaclav Havel says his country can serve as a transit station for Soviet Jews immigrating to Israel. He made this statement during a meeting today in Prague with Religious Affairs Minister Zvulun Hammer. He said the Czechoslovak Government would permit the transit of Soviet Jews once all security problems were resolved.

President Havel is due in Israel on Thursday on an official visit. During his stay he plans to brief Israeli leaders on his recent talks with PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat. Havel is to receive an honorary doctorate from Hebrew University during his visit.

Arrives, Comments on Talks

TA2504101490

[Editorial Report] Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew at 0844 GMT and Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew at 0847 GMT on 25 April begin live coverage of the arrival of Czechoslovakian President Vaclav Havel at the Rose Garden in front of the Knesset in Jerusalem. The unnamed Jerusalem Domestic correspondent describes Havel's background and personal history and recalls that he is the first East Bloc leader ever to visit Israel. The Czechoslovakian leader arrives straight from Ben-Gurion Airport. At 0846 GMT the radio correspondent reports that the Knesset guard is presenting a guard of honor as Havel's motorcade arrives. At 0847 GMT, Havel is reported to be leaving his car and shaking hands with President Hayim Herzog. Both leaders then make their way to the red carpet, the commentators say. At 0849 GMT, the CSFR national anthem is played by the Army band, which is followed by the Israeli national anthem.

The Jerusalem Domestic correspondent says Havel arrived with a large delegation of Czechoslovakian Jews.

At 0851 GMT, the two presidents review the guard of honor and Havel is presented to the reception line of dignitaries, including Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir, ministers and Knesset members, Jerusalem Mayor Teddy Kollek, and religious leaders, the radios report.

At 0858 GMT, President Herzog welcomes Havel in English, by saying it is "a moment of historical significance as you, president of what is again a free and democratic Czechoslovakia" stand in Jerusalem. "the capital and religious focus of the Jewish people." Herzog mentions Czechoslovakian founder Masaryk's visit in 1927. "Mr. President, in your person and your personality you represent for us the all-inspiring revolution which has occurred in Eastern Europe." Herzog recalls the hundreds of thousands of Czechoslovakian Jews who perished in the Nazi holocaust. Herzog expresses the hope that "as the dark clouds of despair, despotism, and tragedy recede from the skies of Czechoslovakia and other countries in Eastern Europe so we pray too may the same winds throw away the clouds of strife and conflict from our area."

At 0902 GMT Havel responds in Czech and his remarks are translated into Hebrew by an official translator. Havel thanks Herzog for his warm welcome and says his delegation is happy to be here as "representatives of the new democratic government of Czechoslovakia" and he personally is happy to be here as the first Czechoslovakian president to visit Israel. Havel says he wants to continue the tradition of the late President Masaryk's warm attitude toward the Jewish people. "During hundreds of years, Jews played a very important part in the culture of our country," he recalls. Havel believes the talks he will have with Israeli leaders will be "direct, successful, and fruitful." Havel ends his speech at 0905 GMT.

Government, Greek Reaction to Settlement Dispute

Greece Delays Full Relations

*TA2404093190 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST
in English 24 Apr 90 p 12*

[By David Makovsky]

[Text] The new right-centre government in Greece has notified Israel that it has decided to put on ice its plans to establish full diplomatic relations with Israel until tenants are evacuated from the Greek Orthodox St. John's hostel in the Old City's Christian Quarter, THE JERUSALEM POST has learned.

Greek Prime Minister Konstantine Mitsotakis said immediately after his election earlier this month that Greece does not want to be the only Western country that never has had full diplomatic relations with Israel, and such a move for upgrading ties would be one of his three top priorities.

Currently, Greece only recognizes Israel de facto, and the top residing diplomat of each country does not enjoy full ambassadorial status.

Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew at 0600 GMT on 24 April adds: "Greece has again lodged a protest with Israel against the settlement in a building belonging to the Greek Church in the Christian quarter in Jerusalem's Old City. Israel's envoy in Athens, Moshe Gilbo'a, was summoned to the Foreign Ministry, where he pointed out that Israel is doing all it can to find a positive solution to the issue of the Greek Church's rights to the building."

Arens Contacts Greek Counterpart

TA2404163190 *Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew*
1600 GMT 24 Apr 90

[Text] Foreign Minister Moshe Arens has sent a message to his Greek counterpart pointing out that Israel has always respected and will continue to respect the freedom of religious worship of all faiths and communities in Jerusalem, including the rights of the Greek Orthodox Church in the city.

Our political correspondent Arye Golan notes the message reiterates that the freedom enjoyed by all faiths in Jerusalem is based on the principles of the status quo on religious affairs which has been maintained for many years.

Shamir's Office on Holy Sites

TA2404181190 *Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew*
1730 GMT 24 Apr 90

[Text] The Prime Minister's Office this evening issued a communique concerning the Jewish settlement in Jerusalem's Christian quarter. The communique states that assistance was extended to the 'Ateret Kohanim Association as part of the Israeli Government's assistance plans for purchasing homes nationwide. The Israeli Government would not have assisted, and would even have prevented, any activity which would in any way have harmed a religious site.

The communique issued by the Prime Minister's Office goes on to say that Israel rejects the attempt to take advantage of this affair to taint its image and reputation in a sphere as sensitive as the attitude toward the holy sites.

'Sharp Reaction' to Protest

TA2504084690 *Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST*
in English 25 Apr 90 pp 1, 10

[By Haim Shapiro and David Rudge]

[Text] Eviction of the Jewish settlers who took up disputed residence in St. John's Hospice in the Christian Quarter of Jerusalem's Old City was delayed yesterday on order of the Execution Office.

In her decision yesterday, the head of the Execution Office, Hana Ben-Ami, said that she had been unaware that the High Court of Justice was to rule tomorrow on

the settlers' appeal against eviction. She therefore postponed the eviction, which had been ordered by the Jerusalem Magistrates Court, until after the High Court session.

The 150 settlers, affiliated with the 'Ateret Kohanim yeshiva in the Moslem Quarter, claim to have obtained a sublease to the hospice belonging to the Greek Orthodox Patriarchate—which they entered on April 11, renaming it Ne'ot David—but the family of the previous lessee have said they would not have made the transaction if they had known a Jewish organization was involved.

Minister-without-Portfolio Avner Sciaki, acting minister of religious affairs while Religious Affairs Minister Zvulun Hammer was out of the country, yesterday issued a sharp reaction to Monday's announcement by heads of all the major churches that churches throughout the country would close on Friday and bells would be tolled to protest against the takeover of the building.

In a statement, Sciaki called the threatened action of the churches "baseless, capricious and overly emotional," claiming that Jews had a "natural, ethical and legal right" to live in all parts of Jerusalem.

Sciaki added that it was the courts which would decide the issue, but that "threats from outside sources against the presence of Jews in East Jerusalem are completely intolerable, as this constitutes discrimination against Jews."

[In a related report on pages 1 and 10 by diplomatic correspondent David Makovsky, Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English on 25 April reports that the communique issued by the Prime Minister's Office on 24 April on the Jewish settlement in the Christian Quarter of the Old City of Jerusalem states that "there have been 'baseless' reports about the status of St. John's Hospice. The communique reads: 'The building is not a church or a holy site of any kind, and is not used for religious ritual, but rather is a building which was owned by the Greek Orthodox Patriarchate, which served as a hostel in the past.'"]

In the meantime Greek Orthodox Patriarch Dhiodhoros I has reportedly threatened to hand the keys of the Holy Sepulchre—the holiest shrine in Christendom—to the United Nations if the settlers do not leave St. John's Hospice.

The idea was raised in a recent meeting between the Patriarch and Israeli Arab local council leaders, who made the trek to Jerusalem in a gesture of solidarity with the Christian Community of the Old City.

(In fact, the keys to the Holy Sepulchre are in the hands of two Moslem families, a situation which is part of the status quo between the Christian communities which has been in effect since the middle of the 19th century.)

Soviet Arrival Statistics To Be Published

TA2504103990 Jerusalem *THE JERUSALEM POST*
in English 25 Apr p 2

[By Herb Keinon]

[Text] The number of Soviet Jews arriving will be published from time to time to give the public an idea of the scope of the mass immigration, Yosi Olmert, head of the Government Press Office, said yesterday.

He was explaining the announcement two days ago that some 25,000 Soviet immigrants had arrived in the country since the beginning of the year.

AL-FAJR Article Urges Arab 'Flexibility'

TA2404143690 Jerusalem *AL-FAJR* in English
23 Apr 90 p 5

[Article by Mahir Abu-Khatir, AL-FAJR managing editor]

[Text] International developments have left the Arabs in general and the Palestinians in particular facing some very difficult choices. Their lifelong allies, whom they depended on for support, are too busy with their own internal problems to cater to Arab needs.

The Soviet Union, which the Arabs and the Palestinians were relying on to pressure the U.S. government to force Israel to compromise on the Palestinian question, has its hands full with problems and does not need any more. Most particularly, it does not need to antagonize the United States, because even the Soviet Union feels that its salvation may come from the United States through economic aid.

The Soviet Union and its allies in the Eastern bloc are too busy restructuring their own societies. They feel they can do so with massive aid from the United States. But they cannot receive this aid unless they befriend Israel, which has proven to them that it controls U.S. foreign aid allocations through its control over Congress. The quick turn to Israel by some East European countries stands as proof of this argument.

This shift in strategy was felt most recently when the Arabs and the Palestinians appealed to the Soviet Union to do something about the Jewish emigrants arriving in Israel. They were worried, understandably, that the Israeli government intended to settle them in the occupied territories in order to offset the demographic balance and thus claim permanent control over the territories. The Arab appeals, however, went in vain. The Soviet Union said the most it could do was prevent direct flights of Soviet Jews to Israel and take the issue to the United Nations. Meanwhile, thousands of Jews from the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe have come in and settled without any international supervision.

Now that the Soviet Union is unable to get bogged down in a conflict with the United States for the Arabs' sake,

the Arabs will need to look for a new strategy to get their voice heard internationally. For years the Arabs thought that the key to the Palestinian question was in U.S. hands. And for years they got nothing from the United States except demands to make concessions to Israel. The United States' most recent stand regarding the Soviet emigrants, namely closing its borders to Soviet Jews, making Israel the only option for them, and strongly pressuring the Soviet government to allow direct flights to Israel, clearly indicates where U.S. interests lie.

How then can the Arab governments influence political developments in their own region and outside? This is a question for Arab strategists to think about. They can start by looking for new allies, such as Western Europe or Japan. Both are growing economic powers, already competing with the United States over control of world markets. Japan in particular is showing great interest in the Palestinian cause and wants to get involved in seeking a solution to the Middle East conflict. Japan is independent of U.S. influence and can therefore have a mind of its own.

The same argument can be made about Western Europe, which is planning for economic unification in 1992. When that happens, Western Europe, which also needs Arab markets and resources, will emerge as a world power capable of influencing international developments.

Even though Israel is not as dependent on either Japan or Western Europe as it is on the United States, there is no denying that it is in Israel's best interest to tap into the emerging powers rather than remain dependent on only one dying empire. Israel made the shift from Britain and France to the United States in the 1960s, and is now reaping the benefits of this successful strategic move. Being a growing industrial nation, Israel will have to consider Japanese and Western European markets and will therefore find its economy interdependent with theirs. That will give these powers a chance to influence Israeli politics.

Since these are long-term strategies, the Arab governments may be interested in something short-term, with quicker impact. One option is to take the initiative into their own hands. Rather than wait for superpowers to pressure Israel, they can do so directly. A lesson can be found in the Palestinian Intifada.

The Intifada, with its very limited and primitive resources, was able to turn Middle East politics upside down, and reached as far as toppling a strong Israeli government. The PLO leadership, backed by a popular uprising, skillfully played the international diplomatic game without having to compromise the Palestinians' rights. All it did was show a great level of flexibility and power of persuasion. In the absence of military power, flexibility and realism become strong weapons with immense political pressure. Of course, flexibility has to be backed by strength, not weakness. The PLO found

strength in the Intifada, and likewise the Arab governments can find strength in the Intifada as well as in their prestige in the world.

Flexibility from the Arab world can come in the shape of willingness to compromise. The Arab countries can begin by hinting to Israel that they are prepared to join the Palestinian movement in negotiating a peace settlement that will guarantee Israeli security and stability. Statements to this effect coming from Jordan, Syria and the Gulf states could have a tremendous impact on Israeli public opinion. The arguments of Israeli hardliners, who are keeping their public fearful of an Arab onslaught aimed at their annihilation as a people, will lose their effect when Arab governments begin talking to the Israelis as people, not as the enemy. Words of assurances from responsible and respectful Arab regimes could mean a great deal to Israelis who are anxious to live in peace and end this state of war. This will also give the peace camp in Israel strong ammunition to fight their battles against the warmongers and the power-hungry in their society.

The Arab governments do not have to commit themselves to anything except expressing peaceful intentions like those coming from the PLO. These will give the PLO's statements more strength and show that the Arab World is serious about reaching peace with Israel. This is the Arab feeling in reality, as expressed in private to many foreign diplomats. The Arab governments have not wished to make this feeling public because the time was not right. But the time seems to be right now, particularly with the PLO leading efforts to convince the Israeli public of its peaceful intentions.

The Israeli government can no longer play the "small and vulnerable Israel surrounded by a sea of hostile Arabs." It will have to reciprocate on peace overtures from the Arab governments, particularly when they come from Jordan and Syria, two legitimate governments whose existence and credibility Israel cannot deny. These governments, working in conjunction with the PLO, can put Israel in a tight position and force it to make the necessary concessions for a peace settlement satisfactory to all parties.

Reservists Jailed for Refusing Territory Duty

*TA2404165790 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
1600 GMT 24 Apr 90*

[Text] Dani Zamir, a captain in the reserves from Kibbutz Ayelet Hashahar, has been sentenced to 28 days in prison for refusing to serve in the territories.

Private Shabtay Yitzhaq from Jerusalem was also sentenced to 28 days in prison for refusing to serve in the detention facility at Qezi'ot.

105 Officers, Men Tried on Territory Activities

*TA2504054390 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
0500 GMT 25 Apr 90*

[Text] Brigadier General Amnon Strassnoff, the military advocate general, said that 105 officers and men have been tried for offenses linked to their activities in the territories since the start of the intifadah. He said several officers were forced to give up their posts over irregularities. Gen. Strassnoff addressed graduates of an advanced course for officers of the military advocate general's office at Tel Aviv University's Law Faculty.

Editorial Views U.S. House Resolution on Jerusalem

*JN2504102290 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic
25 Apr 90 p 1*

[Editorial: "The U.S. House of Representatives' Resolution on Jerusalem; the Emergency Arab Summit"]

[Text] Active Jordanian-Palestinian moves are under way to hold an extraordinary Arab summit conference to discuss the serious challenges facing the Arab nation. So far, eight Arab countries, including Jordan and Palestine, have approved the PLO's call for the summit conference, which should examine the serious developments in the Arab arena, especially repeated Israeli threats to carry out aggression against Jordan and Iraq, in addition to the dangers of Soviet Jewish immigration to Palestine and its repercussions on Jordan, on other Arab countries, and on pan-Arab security in general. It has become almost certain the anticipated summit will be convened within two or three weeks, although the venue still changes between Baghdad and Tunis.

The Jordanian moves were supported by further Palestinian action when president Yasir 'Arafat toured most Arab capitals, calling for the urgent summit conference, which is being demanded by the Arab masses, to achieve the Arab solidarity we need and reach a unified Arab position on the challenges and dangers facing the Arab nation.

As the eight Arab countries' agreement to convene the proposed summit conference raises hopes, we expect the other fraternal Arab countries to do their pan-Arab duty and hold the summit as soon as possible to draw up a comprehensive strategic plan to confront the numerous dangers and threats against our nation, pan-Arab security, and the whole Arab order.

Perhaps the new resolution adopted by the U.S. House of Representatives last night, which approved the Senate's draft resolution declaring Jerusalem as the united and eternal capital of the Zionist entity, in addition to the U.S. Congress' call for the U.S. Administration to adopt and implement the resolution, constitute a new and serious factor making the Arab summit a very important and urgent matter.

We hope our nation will be able to confront the premeditated Jewish, Zionist, and U.S. designs before it is too late.

Project To Deliver Iraqi Oil Via Saudi Pipeline

*JN2504090490 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English
25 April 90 p 1*

[By Ghadir Tahir]

[Excerpt] Amman—Jordan has reached agreement in principle with Iraq and Saudi Arabia to receive Iraqi oil through linking an Iraqi pipeline running through Saudi territory with another line which now pumps Saudi oil to

Jordan, informed sources said Tuesday [24 April]. The project will save Jordan \$40 million to \$50 million a year in transport cost it pays for trucking oil from Iraq, according to Jordanian officials and experts. Jordan gets about 80 per cent of its oil needs from Iraq and the rest from Saudi Arabia.

The initial Jordanian estimate for the project was \$2 million, but Saudi officials were reported to have placed the cost at about \$6 million.

Saudi Arabia has given its blessing for the project and Prime Minister Mudar Badran and Saudi Oil Minister Hisham al-Nazir discussed the project during the prime minister's recent visit to Saudi Arabia, Jordanian sources said.

Iraqi Oil Minister Isam 'Abd-al-Rahim al-Jalabi confirmed Tuesday that a project was under study to link the Saudi Tapline and the Iraqi pipeline, which runs from Iraq to the Saudi port of Yanbu', 440 kilometres from Jiddah, but declined to make more specific comments.

However, al-Jalabi, who was here Tuesday attending a meeting of the oil and energy ministers of the Arab Cooperation Council (ACC), rejected assertions that Baghdad had reservations over the project. "Iraq supports the idea but we have to wait and see when the project study is finalised," he said.

"The study is still not complete but the project has been under discussion for a while," the minister told the JORDAN TIMES in a telephone interview.

According to the sources, the project envisages linking Tapline with the twin Iraqi pipeline, known as IPSA-1 and IPSA-2, which became fully operational in September 1989 with a total pumping capacity of 1.65 million barrels per day. The exact specifications of the linkage project or where exactly the connection was envisaged were not immediately available. The 142-centimetre Iraqi pipeline runs a total of 1,640 kilometres, over 40 per cent of it through Saudi Arabia.

As informed official source confirmed experts' and other estimates that the linkage will save Jordan between \$40 million to \$50 million in charges paid to tanker trucks and road maintenance costs. The tanker charges alone are estimated to add \$2 to each barrel of oil. "Even if the project costs Jordan \$2 million to \$6 million, it will still be very feasible for the Kingdom," the sources said.

Jordan imports 18 million barrels of Iraqi oil every year and most of it is either in the form of barter trade and in repayment of Iraqi debt to the Kingdom estimated at about \$600 million.

According to Jordanian Minister of Energy and Mineral Resources Thabit al-Tahir, Jordan pays an average of \$400 million in oil import bills annually. [passage omitted]

Hizballah Radio Cites Threat Against Americans

NC2504072090 (*Clandestine Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic to Lebanon* 0630 GMT 25 Apr 90)

[Text] The Islamic Jihad Movement—Bayt al-Maqdis [as heard] has announced that any U.S. citizen residing in any Islamic country will be a target for the movement unless the U.S. Senate retracts within 10 days its decision to consider Jerusalem the capital of the Zionist entity. The threat comes after the U.S. Congress voted overwhelmingly in favor of that decision at a session held yesterday in Washington.

Reportage on Efforts To Free Remaining Hostages

Hizballah Commentary on Hostages

NC2504092390 (*Clandestine Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic to Lebanon* 0630 GMT 25 Apr 90)

[Unattributed political commentary: "The Freeing of a Hostage Versus the Freeing of a Nation"]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. We are hardly surprised by the media clamor that invariably accompanies the release of a U.S., French, UK, or FRG hostage held by local Lebanese groups. We expect such a clamor to take place whenever it is time to release a hostage.

It comes as no surprise to us to see the West depicting its human beings as perfect and superior to the rest of mankind. It does not astonish us to see the West depicting the freedom of its human beings as an issue completely different from the freedom of other peoples.

It is no surprise to us to see the West fussing over the release of a Western hostage much more than it does over the issue of a people who are persecuted, tortured, thrown in prison by the thousands, and fired upon. A people whose homes are being demolished or sealed with wax in Palestine and the occupied territories.

This is hardly surprising in view of the mentality of superiority, excellence, and hegemony which the West and the Zionists have in common. Therefore, a Western hostage is seen as worth more than a thousand hostages or an entire nation of our people and those of the Third World. The freedom of an American or European is regarded as equal, if not superior, to the freedom of a whole nation.

This is no exaggeration. Washington has repeatedly made threats to entire nations and countries just because one hostage is held by groups that do not even represent that country or its inhabitants. [passage omitted]

Take your hostages and give us our freedom, our right to speak, our independence, and our land. Has anyone ever heard of a Muslim going to Washington to take hostages? Have you ever heard of Muslims persecuting Jews in France? Have you ever heard that Arabs and Muslims are spying on Western interests and the centers of power

and technology? We only hear about the American spying in Cairo, the Frenchman spying in Amman, the Briton spying in Damascus, and the Zionists who demolish homes and kill their inhabitants.

We are not offenders. We are not the ones who started the war. When we take hostages from them, it is not as an offensive move, but in defense. Those who provoke the fight should be blamed for the consequences. The release of one or all of the hostages should not be seen as the end of extremism and fundamentalism. Muslims are proving today that hostages have not been taken to lay golden eggs, but to seek the freedom of the youths held in the prisons of the Zionist enemy and those of some pro-Washington regimes.

Muslims today are proving that the hostages were no more than an attempt to talk to Washington and the Western capitals in the language they understand. Nevertheless, the release of even all the hostages will not mean the confrontation is over or that Washington has the right to do what it wants. The confrontation is continuing. The release of the hostages does not mean America can do what it likes with the Muslims or harm them. The goodwill that is being talked about now should not be understood only as a matter of the present, but as a matter of both the present and the future. Taking hostages was nothing but a reaction to the policies of aggression, injustice, and imperialism. "But if ye revert (to your sins) we shall revert (to our punishment) and we have made hell a prison for those who reject (all faith)." [Koranic verse]

FRC on Releasing Belgians

JN2404141390 *Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic* 1403 GMT 24 Apr 90

[Text] In Beirut, it was learned a short while ago from a Palestinian source that the Fatah Revolutionary Council [FRC] under Abu-Nidal [Sabri al-Banna] has taken practical steps to release the four Belgian hostages whom it holds. The release of the four hostages could take place within the next few hours.

Source on 'Ubayd, Westerners

NC2404162890 *Beirut Voice of National Resistance in Arabic* 1530 GMT 24 Apr 90

[Text] REUTER reports that the release of Shaykh 'Abd-al-Karim 'Ubayd, who was kidnapped by Israel nine months ago, is the main key to the release of more Western hostages held in Lebanon.

The agency cited a highly placed religious leader as saying that Shaykh 'Ubayd's freedom represents the freedom of all Muslim detainees in Lebanon and Palestine.

The leader, who asked to remain anonymous, said the release of Shaykh 'Ubayd and other Arab detainees held in Israeli prisons will lead to a relaxation in the issue of the 16 Westerners, including seven Americans.

He added that Israel must free the Lebanese and Palestinian prisoners if the hostage issue is to make progress.

PLO's Sa'd on ICRC Workers

NC2404190590 Paris AFP in English 1836 GMT
24 Apr 90

[Text] Sidon, Lebanon, April 24 (AFP)—A senior Palestinian official on Tuesday said he hoped that two Red Cross delegates seized in Lebanon would be freed during the Muslim "Id al-Fitr" feast before the weekend.

"The PLO joins efforts with Mustafa Sa'd (head of the Sunni Muslim militia in control of this southern Lebanese port) and with (Libyan leader) Mu'ammarr al-Qadhafi to secure the release of hostages in Lebanon, namely those of the Red Cross," said Zayd Wahbah, PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat's envoy in Lebanon.

He was referring to Elio Erriquez and Emanuel Christen, two Swiss nationals who were kidnapped in the Sidon region—where most of Lebanon's Palestinian residents are concentrated—last October.

Their abduction has not been claimed.

"The PLO is exerting its efforts on the ground to secure their release and I hope it will occur during the 'Id al-Fitr," Mr. Wahbah said.

The three-day feast marks the end of Ramadan, the holy month of fasting, and Muslims will begin celebrating it either Wednesday or Thursday, according to the lunar calendar.

On Sunday, Col. al-Qadhafi called on "those who hold the hostages, mainly the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) captives, to release them."

Earlier this month, the Libyan leader appealed for the release of all hostages and named Jacqueline Valente, a French woman, who along with her Belgian companion Fernand Houtekins and their daughter was abducted over two years ago by the Fatah Revolutionary Council (FRC) led by Abu-Nidal [Sabri al-Banna].

They were freed on April 10 but four other Belgians abducted with them aboard a yacht, the Silco, in the eastern Mediterranean remain in captivity.

The FRC, which is opposed to the PLO, has denied reports that it seized the two Red Cross workers.

"We remain confident but don't have additional details to what already appeared in the press," the ICRC's representative in Lebanon, Michel Dufour, said.

Mr. Sa'd who heads the Popular Nasirite Organization told Swiss television on Monday he had asked "everybody to free the two Swiss hostages by the end of Ramadan."

Al-Hirawi, Syria's Al-Asad Discuss East Beirut

PM2404160790 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT
in Arabic 23 Apr 90 p 1

[Unattributed report: "During A Secret Visit to Damascus, Al-Hirawi Discusses Eastern Sector Developments With Al-Asad"]

[Excerpt] Beirut, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT— Informed sources in Beirut have revealed to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that Lebanese President Ilyas al-Hirawi visited Damascus Friday and Saturday night and held "lengthy, in-depth" talks with Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad.

They added that the discussions focused on the latest developments in East Beirut, particularly following the recognition of the legitimate government by Lebanese Forces Commander Dr. Samir Ja'ja' and Ja'ja's invitation to the government to take over the army barracks and official institutions in the areas of Lebanese Forces development.

The sources also said the discussions covered the current confrontation between the Amal Movement and the so-called Hizballah, as well as the Salim al-Huss government's inclination to revive the West Beirut "security plan," postponed because of the outbreak of fighting between the Lebanese Forces and forces loyal to 'Awn.

The sources ruled out, for the time being, the possibility of expanding the cabinet to include Ja'ja', because the reservations against his participation still stand. The only scenario at present, they said, for the reactivation of the government is for Ministers George Sa'adah and Michel Sasin to assume the duties of their ministries, deferring discussion of Ja'ja's participation until "the picture becomes clearer" in the eastern area.

Meanwhile, the security deterioration in both parts of Beirut continued yesterday. [passage omitted]

Al-Hirawi Comments in LE MONDE About 'Awn

NC2504092890 Beirut Voice of National Resistance
in Arabic 0530 GMT 25 Apr 90

[Text] President Ilyas al-Hirawi has stated that General Michel 'Awn can assume a position on the political stage in Lebanon if he gives it its due legitimacy.

In an interview with the French paper LE MONDE, President al-Hirawi added: I have nothing to propose to 'Awn except to hand over powers to his successor in the army command. He indicated that when 'Awn ends his usurpation of the authority's headquarters, he will be free to launch his political campaign, and that whoever truly represents the people will win.

President al-Hirawi said: If 'Awn were sufficiently realistic, he would join the al-Ta'if agreement. If he truly represents a popular current, this current will ensure a political position for him, al-Hirawi added.

The president indicated he has the al-Ta'if agreement as a means for resolving the Lebanese problem, and the tripartite Arab committee and the words of Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad are a recourse. He said that through an agreement with the Syrians, results can be achieved that could not be secured by successive futile wars.

French Ambassador Suspends East Beirut Mediation

PM2504092390 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT
in Arabic 24 Apr 90 pp 1, 2

[Tariq Tarshishi report: "France Freezes Its Mediation in East Beirut"]

[Excerpts] Beirut—Informed diplomatic sources in Beirut have revealed to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that France has, for the time being, practically suspended the attempts started by its Ambassador in Beirut Rene Ala, based on an understanding with President Ilyas al-Hirawi, with the aim of arranging a settlement of the East Beirut dispute within the framework of a comprehensive solution. This development comes as General Michel 'Awn renews threats to settle the issue while at the same time declaring that "our hands are outstretched for negotiation with Syria on the basis of mutual interests."

The sources say the ambassador's efforts had two objectives: to bring the eastern area war to an end and, second, to enlarge the circle of dialogue to find some formula for understanding with 'Awn that would culminate in his leaving B'abda palace and President al-Hirawi's moving in.

The sources add Ala's efforts faltered on both counts because 'Awn and Lebanese Forces Commander Dr. Samir Ja'ja' did not show enough flexibility. It has also become clear the circumstances were not yet ripe for 'Awn's participation in a comprehensive settlement or in a dialogue over such a settlement. [passage omitted]

The sources revealed France suspended its efforts after the failure of an attempt to arrange a meeting in an Arab capital between a delegation representing the Lebanese Forces and another representing 'Awn's forces.

They added the Lebanese Forces had agreed to the meeting, but Gen. 'Awn had refused to send a military delegation on the pretext that military personnel could not pass through areas under the control of the militia "fighting the army."

Despite security guarantees offered by the party that was supposed to be sponsoring the meeting, 'Awn failed to send a delegation. [passage omitted]

Ja'ja' Sends Message to Mitterrand

NC2504093190 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic
0615 GMT 25 Apr 90

[Text] Lebanese Forces Commander Dr. Samir Ja'ja' has sent a letter to French President Francois Mitterrand on the situation in Lebanon. The letter was conveyed by

Engineer Richard Juraysati, chief of the expatriates department in the Lebanese Forces.

French officials have emphasized to Juraysati that France regards joining the legitimate authority as the best way to expedite the Syrian forces' withdrawal from Lebanon. The French officials stressed the need for the Christian community to join the al-Ta'if process because the al-Ta'if agreement is open to development.

Accidental Explosion 'Foiled' Plan To Kill Sfayr

NC2404203390 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic
1915 GMT 24 Apr 90

[Text] New light was shed today on the circumstances of the explosion at ['Awn's] strike force headquarters in al-Fayyadiyah [on 18 April]. According to the new information, on that day a meeting was in progress at the headquarters. Those present were strike force Commander Antoine Abu-Samrah, First Lieutenant Ilyas Sasin, and explosives expert Engineer Bahjat Mundhir, who was an agent of Elie Hubayqah. They were preparing to put the final touches to a very sophisticated explosive device to be dispatched to Bkirki [the Maronite patriarch's seat] to assassinate Maronite Patriarch Mar Nasrallah Butrus Sfayr.

According to available details, Michel 'Awn had instructed Lieutenant Colonel Fu'ad al-Ashqar to plan the assassination of Patriarch Sfayr and other leaders. Lt. Col. al-Ashqar, however, asked for some time to study the operation. As a result, General 'Awn entrusted the operation to Captain Abu-Samrah. Our reports add the plan called for a booby-trapped briefcase to be rigged up in a very sophisticated way. The briefcase was to be sent abroad as a first step, and then sent back to the patriarch's seat under the guise it was a briefcase containing very important secret files and reports and meant for Patriarch Sfayr personally. The plan also called for the delivery of a letter to Patriarch Sfayr prior to the arrival of the briefcase, informing him of its expected arrival and the addresses, files, and reports it contained.

The explosion of the briefcase at the strike force headquarters, however, foiled the plan before it could be carried out. It killed explosives expert Eng. Bajhat Mundhir and a chief warrant officer, and injured Capt. Abu-Samrah in the head and Lt. Adil Sasin in the leg.

'Awn Said Seeking Syrian Security Cooperation

NC2404212390 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic
2015 GMT 24 Apr 90

[Text] In his capacity as personal representative of General 'Awn, Dr. John Ghanim met secretly with Lieutenant Colonel Rustum Ghazali of Syrian intelligence in Hammana on 17 April. Ghanim discussed ways of forging close cooperation between 'Awn and Syrian intelligence. He gave Lt. Col. Rustum a detailed list of the weapons and ammunition 'Awn needs. He also asked him to persuade Hubayqah [former chairman of the

Lebanese Forces Executive Committee] to accept payment in installments for the weapons and ammunition supplied to 'Awn. Hubayqah had insisted on cash payment for the supplies. Lt. Col. Rustum promised to exert pressure on Hubayqah on condition that the delay in payment should not exceed one month.

According to the informed sources which reported this, Hubayqah's men were waiting for Dr. Ghanim at the Syrian checkpoint in Btghrin and escorted him and his heavily armed companions to Hammana. Ghanim spent the whole day, 17 April, in Hammana, his home town. He had lunch with Lt. Col. Rustum. In the evening he returned. Some of his companions, who are from Hammana, stayed on for several days.

Bomb Explodes Near IDF in South; No Casualties

TA2504045990 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English
0400 GMT 25 Apr 90

[Text] In south Lebanon yesterday, a large bomb went off between two IDF [Israel Defense Forces] armoured personnel carriers as they headed for the border of the security zone. There were no injuries. Last night, the Hizballah organization claimed responsibility for the attempted attack.

Israeli Forces' Activities in South Reported

NC2504081590 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic
0530 GMT 25 Apr 90

[Text] The Israeli occupation forces are still being reinforced and concentrated in the south. It has been reported the enemy forces have sent fresh reinforcements to their positions in the area of al-Shurayfah and Kawkaba hill. An Israeli force has advanced toward Jabal al-Dahr, while another force has advanced into the liberated areas in al-Jabal al-Wastani. It has been reported that mines have been detonated and rockets dismantled in these areas.

As part of its efforts to alter the landmarks of the international borders and devour parts of Lebanese territory, Israel is building a new road to link al-Majidiyah with Kafr Shuba. There has been no additional information about this.

Shelling, Sniper Fire Reported in East Beirut

NC2504084090 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic
0815 GMT 25 Apr 90

[Text] The security situation deteriorated as of 0935 today. 'Awn's artillery shelled Olivetti and the surroundings of Hotel Dieu Hospital [in East Beirut]. Just before 1000, tanks positioned near Mansur Palace shelled Olivetti and the nearby areas. Residential areas in al-Ashrafiyah also came under intensive sniper fire.

Attacks on Kasrawan, al-Ashrafiyah Reported

NC2404200090 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic
1939 GMT 24 Apr 90

[Text] 'Awn's gunmen have extended the scope of their attacks on Kasrawan. They have been bombarding this area since early this evening. The shelling, in which rocket launchers and phosphorous bombs are being used, is now reaching the coastal, central, and mountainous areas of Kasrawan. The phosphorous bombs have caused a number of fires.

We have also just learned that al-Ashrafiyah, al-Jummayzah, and adjacent areas are coming under fire from 155-mm guns.

We have also learned the western area is being shelled from positions in al-Mukallis in northern al-Matn.

West Beirut, Suburb Shelled; Casualties Reported

NC2504081190 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic
0530 GMT 25 Apr 90

[Excerpts] The situation flared up in the eastern areas yesterday as the 'Awn and Ja'ja' forces violently shelled each other. Some shells fell on areas in West Beirut and its Southern Suburb.

According to security reports, the areas of Ra's al-Nab', al-Khandaq al-Ghamiq, al-Nuwayrah, al-Basta, Qasqas, Zuqaq al-Balat, and Wadi Abu Jamil came under artillery shelling as of 2100 last night as violent shelling, which started at 1700, was being exchanged in the eastern area. [passage omitted]

Security sources in the Amal Movement have stated that the fringes of al-Shiyah, Rawdat al-Shahidayn, Sabra, Shatila, Qasqas, and the airport road were the targets of shelling.

AFP reported one person was killed and four others wounded in the eastern area and that citizen Muhammad Sa'd al-Din Harb, 48, was wounded near the museum building and taken to al-Maqasid hospital.

Hizballah Said Adhering to Unilateral Cease-Fire

NC2504084290 Beirut Voice of National Resistance
in Arabic 0530 GMT 25 Apr 90

[Text] A Hizballah source has emphasized Hizballah's adherence to a unilateral cease-fire with the Amal Movement. The source said that Hizballah is fully committed to its initiatives in this respect.

The source accused the Amal Movement of shelling Hizballah positions in 'Ayn Qana and Jarju'.

Clashes involving automatic weapons and rockets took place in Iqlim al-Tuffah yesterday. A truck driver was killed, and a number of people were wounded in the clashes.

Officials Sign Euphrates Water Pact With Iraq*JN2404155790 Damascus AL-BA'TH in Arabic
17 Apr 90 p 1*

[Text] Tunis—SANA—Minutes on the temporary sharing of the Euphrates waters between Syria and Iraq were signed at the Arab League yesterday.

The minutes were signed on the Syrian Arab side by Munih al-Rifa'i, director of the Foreign Ministry Legal Administration, in the presence of Ahmad 'Isa, the Syrian ambassador to Tunisia. They were signed on the Iraqi side by Hamid 'Alwan al-Juburi, Iraq's ambassador to Tunisia.

The signing ceremony was attended by Chedli Kilibi, Arab League secretary general, and As'ad al-As'ad and Daw Suwyadan, assistant secretaries general in the Arab League.

Iranian Official Gives Velayati Note to Al-Shar'*JN2404205290 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic
2015 GMT 24 Apr 90*

[Text] Damascus—Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' this evening received Mohammad Kazem Khonsari, director of the Arab Desk at the Iranian Foreign Ministry, and the accompanying delegation. The meeting was attended by Hasan Akhtari, Iranian ambassador in Damascus. Khonsari conveyed to the foreign minister a message from Iranian Foreign Minister Dr. 'Ali Akbar Velayati on relations between Syria and Iran, and on other issues of common interest.

Further Comment on Israeli Settlements**AL-BA'TH Editorial***JN2404084790 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic
0445 GMT 24 Apr 90*

[From the press review]

[Text] In its editorial under the headline "Arab Action and the Big Conspiracy," the newspaper AL-BA'TH says: Amid various Arab and international reactions to the extensive Jewish immigration to occupied Palestine, and to the settlement of a large number of the immigrants in the occupied Arab territories, the Arab factor and its possible development to confront the immigration and its negative consequences on the Arab future will continue to be the most important factor deserving to be followed up amid this storm blowing violently in our world and amid the international relations whose maps were charted in the second half of this century.

Solidarity, at a minimum, is meant to confront danger, and danger here is no longer a subject of differences over its source and tools. As long as the Arab destiny is targeted, Arab solidarity becomes a form of self-defense through the use of all means that Arabs possess, and through their intrinsic powers and relations and friendships with many states in the world.

Concluding, AL-BA'TH says: The call for Arab solidarity must not continue to be a pending question at a time when several old and new facts are interacting in the course of the Arab-Zionist conflict. Syria, which sounded the alarm and called for a comprehensive Arab awakening to confront the imminent danger all Arabs faced, will use all its resources, as it has always been ready to, to turn the Arab factor into strong solidarity through which the Arabs will move from the state of weakness and impotence to a situation that will enable them to protect their pan-Arab security and safeguard their destiny from the big conspiracy that seeks to confiscate the Arab future and delete the Arab nation's position and role from the maps of history.

Damascus Radio on U.S. Role*JN2404145890 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic
1130 GMT 24 Apr 90*

[Station commentary]

[Text] Shim'on Peres' hopes of forming a new government have been shattered, while Yitzhaq Shamir's have been revived. Between the time given Peres and the period expected to be granted to Shamir, time passes without any real opportunities to establish peace in the region, due to the ongoing Israeli process of postponement. The hope for peace has not increased—neither with Peres' chances to form a government nor with Shamir's revived hopes. The clear, acknowledged fact is that the hope for peace is fading farther and farther away.

The game of forming the Israeli government continues on the Israeli political stage, accompanied by a notable growing trend toward extremism and moves counter to any peaceful trends. The Israeli authorities continue to implement their expansionist plans, use more Soviet Jewish emigrants, set up settlements, and continue to defy the international will and the feelings of the various heavenly religions through their attempts to Judaize Arab Jerusalem.

The most recent act of Israeli settlement was to set up a new settlement—being built on the occupied Gaza Strip—in which new settlers will be housed under the protection of Israeli soldiers, in addition to new settlements near Jerusalem and in the West Bank, which they are preparing to build at a time when new Jewish immigrants continue to occupy St. John's Hospice in the Old City of Jerusalem despite international condemnation and protests from various sides.

It has become clear the Israeli Government was behind the forged process of financing and purchasing the hospice. This led the United States to protest against this measure. This U.S. protest, though important, remains below the required level, not because it is not enough to deter Israel, but because Washington itself is directly involved in the process of settling the new Jews through its intentions to transfer the sum of \$400 million to Israel to settle these immigrants.

Despite the fact the U.S. Administration requested guarantees from Israel while setting down the condition that these sums will not be used to settle the Soviet Jews in the occupied Arab territories, the question that remains prominent is: What guarantees can prevent Israel from settling the new immigrants in the occupied Arab territories at a time when Israel's rulers themselves daily affirm in word and deed that the processes of settling up these settlements in these territories continue? Such guarantees remain trivial, and will not prevent the use of millions of U.S. dollars in the crime of settling Jews in the occupied Arab territories. This means the United States will be an actual partner in the settlement process.

The U.S. Administration has recently—especially after President Bush assumed the presidency—tried to take positive steps by which it can distance itself from the Israeli practices. This is a positive thing in itself which the Arabs missed during previous U.S. administrations. This is what encourages Washington to take more decisive stands concerning the policy of Israeli settlement, and moderate its stands concerning the Soviet Jewish immigrants and the process of forcing them to travel to Israel only, in addition to canceling the proposed loan to finance the settlement processes and implement effective measures to force Israel to stop the policy of procrastination toward establishing peace in the region. Washington knows better than anyone else that the Israeli behavior will create a reaction, and that Israel's insistence on continuing to place obstacles before the peace process and the policy of expansionism at the expense of Arab rights and land will inevitably lead an explosion in Middle East situation and a threat to peace and security not only in this region, but the entire world. Will the United States assume its responsibility of establishing a just and permanent peace in the region, deterring Israeli belligerence, and curbing Israeli behavior? There might be a ray of hope.

Armed Struggle Favored

JN2404211590 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic
1730 GMT 24 Apr 90

["Palestine" broadcast: "Spotlight" feature]

[Text] Brother Strugglers: As part of the escalation of the resistance operations accompanying the intifadah activities of our people in the occupied homeland, it was acknowledged by the Zionist enemy that our people's revolutionaries have launched a series of attacks on Israeli buses in various areas in the West Bank and Gaza Strip which have resulted in the injury of a number of Zionists.

The enemy's admission entails a confession that our revolutionaries have set armed ambushes for enemy vehicles and opened fire on them. If the enemy has claimed that one of its settlers has been injured in every vehicle, it is clear that it is employing deception and hiding the losses among its personnel out of fear of an expansion of this pattern of operations, which is the only logical response to the continuation of the Zionist soldiers' crimes against our people and the increased number of martyrs and wounded among the ranks of our masses demanding their legitimate right to freedom, life, and the removal of the shackles of the hateful Zionist occupation.

The strugglers of our people throughout the occupied homeland are called upon to escalate armed resistance to include the entire occupied homeland. They are called upon to deal various blows to the enemy to include all areas without exception in order to force the enemy to disperse its forces in resignation and to turn the life of Zionist settlers into intolerable hell. Otherwise, the enemies will not opt for peace, and will not admit that what leads to security is peace, not the continuation of the occupation, usurpation, persecution, and the policy of displacement and uprooting they are exercising against our people, thus denying their most basic human right of living freely in their homeland.

Afghanistan

Wakil Meets Indian, Libyan, PDRY Officials at UN

LD2404195990 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto
1530 GMT 24 apr 90

[Text] Afghan Foreign Minister 'Abdul Wakil, who went to New York to take part in the 18th Special Session of the UN General Assembly on international economic cooperation, and particularly the acceleration of economic growth in developing countries, and also to take part in the session of foreign ministers of the Nonaligned Movement, met His Excellency K.I. Gujral, minister of external affairs of India, at UN headquarters yesterday.

At this meeting, the two foreign ministers exchanged views on international developments, including the situation in the region, and called for the restoration of peace and security, and for a speedy conclusion to Pakistan's interventions and aggressive activities in the internal affairs of Afghanistan and India.

According to another report, Foreign Minister 'Abdul Wakil met separately at UN headquarters yesterday afternoon with the Libyan foreign minister and with the deputy foreign minister of the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen [PDRY] and the head of the PDRY delegation to the special session of the UN General Assembly. Wakil exchanged views with them on international developments and the subjects on the agenda of the forthcoming session of the foreign ministers of Organisation of the Islamic Conference [ICO].

The Afghan foreign minister called on the members of the credible Islamic conference to support the righteous demand of the Republic of Afghanistan for the restitution of its ICO membership in consideration of political-military developments.

The Libyan foreign minister and the PDRY deputy foreign minister expressed their countries' support for the peaceful efforts of the Republic of Afghanistan to bring about a dialogue among the Afghans and to solve issues by political and peaceful means.

Hikmatyar Claims Contacts With Kabul Regime

PM2404163390 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT
in Arabic 21 Apr 90 p 9

[Report on interview with Gulbuddin Hikmatyar, leader of the Afghan Hezb-e Eslami-Gulbuddin, by Ahmad Muwaffaq Zaydan in Peshawar; date unspecified]

[Excerpt] Gulbuddin Hikmatyar, leader of the Afghan Hezb-e Eslami-Gulbuddin, has—for the first time—revealed to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that secret meetings have been held between Hezb-e Eslami and Kabul government representatives in several places which he declined to name.

Hikmatyar added: A while ago Najibullah started to write to us in various ways. He wanted to meet with me

personally. We informed them of our position, namely, that they could surrender to the mujahidin and benefit from the general amnesty. After several low-level meetings we felt that they were still not ready to surrender to the mujahidin and benefit from the general amnesty, as the delegation offered the possibility of handing power to Hezb-e Eslami in Kabul in the return for certain ministerial portfolios to be determined by the latter.

But Hikmatyar had rejected the offer and emphasized in his interview with AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT the party's position of refusing to participate in any coalition government or include any non-Muslim elements in the next government. He said: "We insist on the formation of an elected government, and the party will not participate in any unelected government, even if it is noncommunist."

With regard to the date of the negotiations and whether they were held before or after the Tanay coup attempt, Hikmatyar said that they were held after it.

On why the communist groups have not surrendered to the other mujahidin organizations, Hikmatyar said: I can say that if they decide to surrender, they will speak to no one except the Hezb-e Eslami, because they realize that there is no other organization which can protect them—something which we proved when Tanay turned to us.

With regard to the details of the talks the Hezb-e Eslami leader said: I cannot give details, but we held more than one meeting, sometimes via an intermediary and at other times not, and in various places in the world.

On the view prevailing in Pakistan that Hikmatyar has a liking for political and media bombshells, he said: We have to work at all levels and use all means to topple the Kabul government and enable the mujahidin to form an Islamic state. We will not accept anything less than the formation of an elected Islamic government. Even if an unelected mujahidin government is formed, we will not participate in it. We will act as we have done over the past 22 years.

With regard to the other mujahidin parties' views Hikmatyar said: We have decided to take practical steps and leave propaganda to others. I believe that one single practical step is better than 1,000 appraisals of others' work.

On the party's ability to form a government on its own and without the other parties, the Afghan leader said: We want to form an elected Islamic government through an understanding with the other parties. But as we have realized that these parties want to distribute the ministries equally among the organizations and, as they reject elections and unity, we have no option but to proceed single-handedly.

He added: The doors are open and we will never close them. It is up to the other organizations. They are responsible for rejecting unity and for obstructing an understanding.

On the concessions which the party can make for the sake of uniting ranks, Hikmatyar said: Our insistence on elections means referring the matter to the evacuees and the mujahidin who have made sacrifices in order to form an Islamic government. The elections committee specified characteristics for the candidate and the voter which we are ready to accept.

He added: I propose that a new interim government be formed, because the present government's term has terminated. But the new government must not be confined to the seven parties. It must include all the mujahidin groups. Or a union like the previous one can be formed, leaving the idea of forming a government until Najibullah is toppled. We are prepared to form another government without the leaders, provided that there is a leading shura council with greater authority than the government and whose leadership is assumed by turns, as was the case with the Ahmad Shah government.

On including the field commanders in the government, Hikmatyar said: What is important now is to agree on the principle before getting into the details. We must not content ourselves with a government-in-exile. The government must move into the country and extend its authority over the liberated areas, namely by forming local administrations to be run by the mujahidin leaders.

Asked about what is happening in Khowst and the surrender of its defenders, who belong to the Tanay group, Hikmatyar said: I was in Khowst and met with the field commanders, including Shaykh Haqqani, who supported the coup. We agreed on the broad outlines and certain points, and the program for capturing Khowst will be started.

Meanwhile, Afghan mujahidin sources have revealed to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT Pakistani President Ghulam Ishaq Khan's mediation between the Afghan mujahidin groups to bring their views closer. Hikmatyar this week held protracted talks with Ghulam Ishaq Khan which lasted one hour and 40 minutes and have been described as important.

On his meeting with the Pakistani president, Hikmatyar said: The talks were cordial and I hope they will produce good results. We discussed many issues.

AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT's sources close to the talks have said that the two sides discussed the question of forming a new transitional government which would run the affairs of the liberated areas and supervise general elections in liberated Afghanistan. [passage omitted]

Najibullah Amnesties Prisoners on 'Id al-Fitr

LD2404182990 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto
1530 GMT 24 Apr 90

[Decree issued by President Najibullah on the occasion of 'Id al-Fitr; date not given—read by announcer]

[Text] While the lofty Islamic principles are the source of action for the Government of the Republic of Afghanistan, in consideration of humanitarian aspects, and on the basis of Paragraph 8, Article 75 of the Constitution, I approve amnesty for the following prisoners:

Article 1: Convicts infected with an incurable disease, without consideration for the type of crime committed or the time already spent in prison;

Article 2: Convicts over 60 years of age, without consideration for time already spent in prison; crimes of intentional murder, terrorism, and causing explosions, and crimes of economic sabotage are exempted from this provision; a prisoner will be determined on the basis of his citizenship card, and in the absence of a citizenship card, by a medical commission.

Article 3: Completely disabled convicts, without consideration of the type of crime committed or the time already spent in prison.

Article 4: Provided the convicts embodied in Articles 1-3 of this decree have the means of payment, fines will be obtained in accordance with the provisions of the law.

Article 5: 1.—for the purpose of implementing the provisions of this decree and of determining procedures for its implementation, a commission consisting of representatives of courts, prosecution offices, the ministries of State Security and Internal Affairs, will be set up under the chairmanship of the president of the Special National Security Court.

2.—In the provinces, a commission consisting of representatives of the organs mentioned in Paragraph 1 of this article, provided they are available in the respective area, will be set up under the chairmanship of president of the provincial court or representative of the provincial court.

Article 6: The commissions mentioned in Article 5 of this decree are bound to prepare a complete list of those prisoners eligible to benefit from this decree as soon as possible and then submit them to the Legal Office of the Presidency for the completion of formalities.

Article 7: In order to determine the prisoners infected with incurable disease and completely disabled prisoners, the assigned medical commissions should take action and remit the results of actions as soon as possible to the commissions mentioned in Article 5 of this decree.

Article 8: This decree comes into effect from the time of its approval and will be published in the official gazette.

[Signed] Najibullah, president of Afghanistan.

Ministers Discuss Drug, Finance Problems

LD2404194290 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto
1530 GMT 24 Apr 90

[Excerpts] The Press Office for Council of Ministers affairs reports that a regular session of the Council of

Ministers' Executive Committee was held this morning under the chairmanship of Sultan 'Ali Keshtmand and with the participation of deputy ministers, and some ministers and heads of state authorities.

In today's session, issues related to accelerating the process of developing education in the Republic of Afghanistan were widely discussed. [passage omitted]

In today's session of the Council of Ministers' Executive Committee, the issue of the campaign against the production, smuggling, and taking of drugs, and the issue of treatment measures for drug addicts were widely discussed. It was asserted that the production and smuggling of drugs have become a great international problem that poses a serious danger to human beings. In areas of Afghanistan not controlled by the government, wide areas have been allocated to the cultivation of poppy. Some leaders of Pakistani-based organizations, along with maintaining the fire of war, have embarked on the extensive cultivation and smuggling of drugs to poison active forces and accumulate wealth. The Council of Ministers resolution on the prevention of drug production and smuggling and on the treatment of drug addicts were approved. It was noted that the campaign against the production, smuggling, and use of drugs is our people's holy war. The Council of Ministers resolution on this issue will be published by the mass media.

In today's session, the circumstances of the implementation of the Council of Ministers resolution on the relative consolidation of the price of Afghan currency with exchangeable currency were discussed. It was noted that 20 percent of main export items have purchased at the market price, and currency needed by corporations and by state and mixed companies has been provided from the currency income of banks, and their approach to the market to obtain currency has been prevented. Also the necessary facilities have been generated by the country's banks for current accounts and currency, and deposit and investment accounts, and allocations have been made for loans for the import of basic goods and for exports by commerce banks. Recently, however, due to some factors, the price of exchangeable currency has increased. To prevent a further fall in the price of Afghan currency and to secure the relative consolidation of the exchangeable currency and prevent the acceleration of inflation, the Council of Ministers resolved that scrupulous analyses should be carried out in this respect and wide measures at the national level should be made. The Council of Ministers decided that from 10 to 15 million exchangeable dollars from the currency income of banks should be given to importers of basic goods such as milk, tea, butter, soap, and medicine at lower than market price.

Decisions on the issue of the arrears of state goods transport drivers and other socioeconomic issues also were made in today's session of the Council of Ministers.

Khowst Battle Situation Detailed 23 Apr

*LD2304165390 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto
1430 GMT 23 Apr 90*

[Text] Armed Forces are ready to dislodge any probable offensive of the enemy and fulfill their duties with high morale. The BAKHTAR Military section, quoting an authoritative Armed Forces source, reports that over the past three days joint enemy forces, extremists, Pakistani military and Saudi Wahhabis, fired with heavy weapons on a number of security posts around the town of Khowst and first lines of units. To neutralize their criminal acts artillery and air strikes have been mounted on the positions of joint enemy force. As a result, 75 Pakistani-backed warmongers have been ousted from combat lines and their three sets of reactif [missiles], one DShK [machine gun], one ZK1 [machine gun], rocket launchers, and one motor vehicle loaded with arms and ammunition have been destroyed. Two members of the units were martyred as a result of Pakistani-backed armed extremists firing. Four others have been wounded.

The source adds that the units in Nangrahar Province are engaged in the consolidation of their previous trenches. Armed extremists, Pakistani military, and Saudi Wahhabis have intermittently fired on a number of Nangrahar garrison security posts over the past three days. In response to their firing artillery and air strikes have been inflicted on resistance position of joint enemy force as a result of which 41 extremists have been ousted from combat line over the past three days. Their two mortars, three motor vehicles loaded with arms and ammunition, and three rocket launchers have been destroyed. Units discharge their patriotic duties with high combat morale. Because of the enemy fire 11 civilians and one unit member were martyred. Eight other civilians have been injured and the home of one of our compatriots has been destroyed.

According to another report, over the past three days armed extremists, Pakistani military, and Saudi Wahhabis have fired with heavy weapons intermittently on a number of security posts in Qandahar and Zabol. Units mounted heavy weapons fire on the resistance areas of Pakistan-backed armed extremists as a result of which 11 armed extremists have been eliminated and their one set of reactif, two rocket launchers, and one mortar have been destroyed. As a result of enemy fire one member of the units was martyred and seven others were wounded.

For the prevention of terrorist acts of Pakistani-backed extremists armed forces units have recently mounted a series of clearing up operations in the area of Andkhvoy district.

The BAKHTAR military section reported that as a result of the operations 15 extremists including one of their ringleaders have been crushed and 10 people have been wounded and three ringleaders by names of 'Abdul Basir Bay, Rajab and Kazi Shahnazar have been captured alongwith a number of their supporters. Also, as a result

of this operation enemy's one ZK1, 15 barrels of various weapons, 15 ground-to-ground missiles with a set of fuses, 60 artillery shells, 100 shells of rocket launchers, 80,000 rounds of light weapons cartridges, 14 antivehicle mines, eight motor vehicles, and some antigovernment publications have been confiscated by the country's Armed Forces. As a result of the operation Andkhvoy's Khan Chaharbagh Subdistrict has been completed purged of extremist elements and the people of the subdistrict resumed their peaceful life.

Regime Seizes Weapons in Shakar Darreh, Lowgar

LD2404170690 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto
1530 GMT 24 Apr 90

[Text] Organs of the Ministry of State Security mounted clearing-up operations in Shakar Darreh District today to prevent the terrorist acts of Pakistani-backed extremists. BAKHTAR'S military section reports that as a result of the operation, eight U.S. [as heard] SAKR-30 surface-to-surface rockets, 24 sets of missiles, and six antivehicle mines, which were deployed in the district by the enemies of our country and people to be launched at residential areas and to commit terrorist acts, were detected with the all-out cooperation of the locals and were taken away.

Armed Forces units launched clearing-up operations in the area of Ainak copper mine in Lowgar Province for the prevention of terrorist acts by Pakistani-backed extremists. BAKHTAR's military section reports that as a result of this clearing-up operation, two weapons, 30 missile shells, 19 gun shells, 17 rockets and mortar mines, and some antigovernment papers were captured by the Armed Forces.

India

Gujral Counters Pakistani Remarks on Kashmir

BK2504032890 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0240 GMT 25 Apr 90

[Text] India has categorically told Pakistan that if the concept of self-determination for a part of a country's territory is accepted, it would gravely disturb international stability, political identity, and sovereignty of many nations. In a strongly worded reply to Pakistan Foreign Minister Sahabzada Yaqub Khan's reference to Kashmir, the Indian ambassador to the United Nations, Mr. Gharekhan, said in Pakistan itself people speaking Sindhi and Balochi languages have been demanding the right of self-determination for many years. Earlier, Mr. Yaqub Khan raised the Kashmir issue at the special ministerial meeting of the nonaligned nations in New York yesterday. He alleged that the people of Kashmir are not allowed to determine their future.

Mr. Gharekhan said the real issue in Jammu and Kashmir is one of terrorism and support by Pakistan to it has resulted in the loss of many innocent lives. Strongly rejecting the insinuations in Mr. Yaqub Khan's

remarks, Mr. Gharekhan said India stands second to none in supporting the right of self-determination of people living in colonial subjugation.

The external affairs minister, Mr. K.I. Gujral, in his reply, made it clear that there is no question of the right of self-determination for the integral parts of a country. Mr. Gujral asserted that Kashmir is an integral part of India and as such the question of self-determination does not arise. He reminded that there would be no end to such exercises if the right of self-determination was to be applied in parts of existing countries.

The foreign minister is scheduled to have a meeting with Mr. Yaqub Khan later this evening.

Singh To Restore Military Balance With Pakistan

BK2504020290 Delhi Doordarshan Television Network
in English 1600 GMT 24 Apr 90

[Text] The prime minister, Mr. Vishwanath Pratap Singh, has announced that a new organization of ex-servicemen called National Rifles would be formed soon to function as a link between the military and paramilitary organizations. Addressing a gathering of ex-servicemen at Mana Airport near Raipur, he said volunteers of the National Rifles would be deployed to maintain internal security and be posted in the sensitive border areas. He said with the formation of National Rifles the benefit of the services and experience of ex-servicemen could be used in the interest of nation.

Later, talking to newsmen on his way back to Delhi, Mr. Singh said that the military balance between India and Pakistan, which stood at one to two in favor of India a few years ago, has now gone down to one to 1.5. He accused the earlier government of not properly pursuing the security needs of the country. Mr. Singh said while Pakistan is constantly increasing its military might, India's defense budget is stagnant for the last two years. The prime minister said that his government is committed to bring back the military balance vis-a-vis Pakistan to the old level of one to two. Mr. Singh said that until such time Pakistan keeps helping secessionists in our country, we cannot afford to remain off guard. [sentence as heard]

Spokesman Refutes Pakistani Claim of Troop Buildup

BK2404151790 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1430 GMT 24 Apr 90

[Text] A spokesman of the External Affairs Ministry today clarified that there is no buildup of troops by India in Suratgarh sector as alleged by Pakistan. He said in New Delhi this evening that this is an area normally used for troop exercises which Islamabad is well aware of. He also clarified that some troops were left behind after the exercise for want of railway wagons as they were having heavy equipment with them.

The spokesman also reiterated India's stand that the UN observer team in Kashmir has no locus standi. He said

India does not report to the team of any border violations. Therefore, the reported observation of border violation by the team is based only on Pakistan's claim.

Commentary Says Pakistan Causing 'War Psychosis'

BK2404131590 Delhi General Overseas Service in English 1010 GMT 24 Apr 90

[Commentary by S.K. Nayyar of All India Radio: "The War Psychosis Caused by Pakistan"]

[Text] The rising level of rhetoric on Kashmir in India and Pakistan followed by the Pakistani Army being placed on the alert and raising its forces on the border with India leading to the necessary countermeasure by India have created a situation where the possibilities of sudden war have become a reality. In fact, Pakistan has been creating a warlike situation by aiding and abetting the subversive elements to wreck the national integrity despite warnings by both Indian and world political leaders.

Pakistan has not desisted from its chosen path, and that, too, at the minimal risk to itself. The world opinion, including the powers in the United States, have started realizing and advising Pakistan not to pursue a policy which may ultimately lead to its own death. Of course, the possibility of the Indians getting economically crippled is not ruled out as the war always drains the resources of the warring nations. But, the Pakistanis would be the worst sufferers.

The world-known American South Asian expert, Mr. Selig S. Harrison, has squarely blamed Pakistan for the war psychosis in the Indian subcontinent and has asked the Bush administration to immediately suspend its burgeoning shipments of sophisticated military equipment to Pakistan. Mr. Harrison has rightly advised that the Bush administration must make it clear to Islamabad that it would cut off ammunition, spares and American-controlled petroleum supplies as it did in 1965 in the event of a new conflict. Should war come, it would be folly for the United States to find itself arrayed against India, eight times larger, with an increasingly powerful naval reach extended throughout the Indian Ocean and the Persian Gulf. [sentence as heard] Mr. Harrison has also recalled in his warning to the Bush administration [as heard] for its blind support to Pakistan. That the 1965 conflict came after Washington had provided \$1.5 billion in military hardware to Pakistan for the ostensible purpose of deterring Soviet and Chinese aggression.

This time Pakistan has been emboldened by \$1.5 billion in a renewed aid provided since 1981 and another \$1.4 billion scheduled for delivery by 1991, including 60 F-16 fighter aircraft in addition to the 40 already supplied. This weaponry has almost all been deployed along the Indian frontier, though it was taken under the pretext of Soviet Union's involvement in Afghanistan and the possible escalation of war between Afghanistan and Pakistan. Pakistan knew it well that it was interfering in the internal affairs of Afghanistan deliberately at the insistence of the

United States. It was the wisdom of the Afghan Government that continued to fight with the mujahidin in a defensive way, avoiding war with Pakistan.

Pakistan has precipitated the present war psychosis by escalating insurgent activity on the Indian border. The union minister for Kashmir affairs, Mr. George Fernandes, has already pointed out that there were 40 to 45 training camps in Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Kashmir where about 4,000 youths were being trained in arms and subversion. Some of these youths are also being taken to the Afghanistan border for joining guerrilla warfare there. India has already brought it to the notice of the international community, and even the locations of these camps have been pointed out. India is opposed to war and wants friendly relations with Pakistan. But it should not allow Pakistan to interfere in its internal affairs and encourage insurgency and subversion. Obviously, India cannot have any compromise on this issue.

In fact, Pakistan has been adopting dual standards. On the one side, creating a warlike condition, and on the other, crying that India is likely to go on war to destroy Pakistan. But the question arises: Should Pakistan be allowed to get away from paying the price of its subversive activities and for its efforts to disintegrate a mighty nation like India, which always pursued a policy of peace and friendship with its neighbors? Pakistan should not forget that India has not abandoned its right of hot pursuit into Pakistan-occupied territory if the warnings to Pakistan do not yield the desired results. Pakistan has been interested in raising the stakes—short of a war. But the war could be the only outcome of the path Pakistan has been adopting. In other words, Pakistan could not be given the luxury of following its own methods of teaching to detach Kashmir at minimum cost and risk.

FRG Submarine Deal With South Africa Opposed

AU2504123990 Cologne Deutschlandfunk Network in German 1100 GMT 25 Apr 90

[Excerpts] The Indian Government has protested to the FRG Government against the sale of German submarine plans to South Africa. The supply of the plans violates the German-Indian security protection agreement, it was stated. [passage omitted]

India, which bought four submarines in Kiel in 1981, feels it has been betrayed by the shipyard and the FRG Government. Last week, the Indian Government presented an official protest note to the FRG Foreign Ministry. It complains about the violation of a security protection agreement concluded by Bonn and New Delhi. When India ordered the submarines in Kiel in 1981, it was agreed that no third country was to get the same type or its construction plans. However, allegedly, blueprints of the submarines constructed for India were later sent from Kiel to South Africa. Now the apartheid state on the Cape is reported to be building its own submarine force according to these blueprints. [passage omitted]

So far, the management of the Kiel shipyard and the FRG Government have rejected all accusations as unfounded.

Agricultural Exchanges Planned With PRC

*BK2404154790 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1430 GMT 24 Apr 90*

[Text] India and China have explored areas of exchanges of technologies and joint research programs in agriculture. The two countries have agreed to exchange specialist teams within the next few months. A broad understanding to this effect was reached during official talks between the deputy prime minister and agriculture minister, Mr. Devi Lal, and his Chinese counterpart, Mr. He Kang, in Beijing today. The two leaders met outside the ongoing regional conference for Asia and the Pacific of the Food and Agricultural Organization now in session in Beijing.

Spokesman Hopes Nepal Consolidates Democracy

*BK2404152590 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1430 GMT 24 Apr 90*

[Text] India has expressed the hope that all sections of the Nepalese society will now devote their time and energy to consolidate the gains of their peaceful and valiant struggle for democracy. A spokesman of the External Affairs Ministry said in New Delhi this evening that this would serve the objective of ushering in a full-fledged multiparty democracy, enabling them to give expression to their just aspirations. He said any move by any element to jeopardize this goal would be most unfortunate.

Fernandes Denies Allegations Against Home Minister

*BK2404125490 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1230 GMT 24 Apr 90*

[Text] The railway minister, Mr. George Fernandes, has denied that he has written any letter to the prime minister alleging that the union home minister is in league with terrorists in Jammu and Kashmir. Making a statement in Lok Sabha today, Mr. Fernandes said it is preposterous even to think that the home minister can have anything to do with the subversives in the state.

Government Officer Arrested as 'Subversive'

*BK2404161790 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1530 GMT 24 Apr 90*

[Text] In the Kashmir valley, 38 subversives, including the so-called area commander of the outlawed terrorist organization, Hezbul Mujahidin, were arrested by the security forces at different places. A gazetted officer of the state government was arrested in Srinagar today for his involvement in subversive activities. Seven subversives were arrested last night in the five-km border belt where dusk-to-dawn curfew is in force.

Oil, Gas Found in West Godavari District

*BK2304162290 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1530 GMT 23 Apr 90*

[Text] Oil and gas have been struck at the first well of the Mori structure, 12 km from Narsapur in West Godavari District of Andhra Pradesh. An Oil and Natural Gas Commission press release said the structure which covers an area of seven and half square km is likely to add about 3 million tons of oil and gas.

Official Details 1989-90 Defense Performance

*BK2104141090 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1230 GMT 21 Apr 90*

[Text] Defense public sector undertakings have achieved a total profit of about 65 percent in the just concluded financial year. Estimate for the year 1989-90 shows that these undertakings have produced goods worth 2,900 crore rupees, an increase of 18 percent over the previous year's output. The total profit before tax totalled 173 crore rupees, 68 crore rupees more than the profit netted in the year 1988-89.

An official release says that the defense undertakings also achieved some outstanding results in high-tech areas. The Hindustan Aeronautics Limited produced and successfully test flew the first HTT-34 trainer aircraft. The Bharat Electronics Limited produced the first indigenous low-level detection radar. The Mazagaon Dock Limited built the first combat INS [Indian Naval Ship] Kukri for the navy. The first indigenously-built submarine INS Shalki was also commissioned in 1989-90.

Iran

Sources Say 'Another U.S. Hostage' To Be Freed

*LD2404213790 Tehran in English to Europe
1930 GMT 24 Apr 90*

[Text] Radio Khartoum quotes informed sources in Beirut as saying that the Quds [Jerusalem] occupying regime has agreed to the U.S. request on releasing the Lebanese clergy, Shaykh 'Abd al-Karim 'Ubayd and a number of Iranian hostages before Fitr Feast [26 April]. The same sources told the reporter of KHARTOUM NEWS AGENCY in Beirut that the U.S. officials have informed Tehran, the Islamic Jihad Organization for the Liberation of Palestine and Arab regional country, of Zionist regime's agreement to release a group of Iranian hostages. The sources added: In order to pave the way for the release of four Iranian hostages detained in the Zionist regime's prisons, another U.S. hostage will be released.

Repercussions of Hostage Release Viewed*LD2404173290 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
1630 GMT 24 Apr 90*

[Text] Our colleague in London has sent us a report about the latest repercussions in the freeing of the U.S. hostage in European and U.S. mass media:

[Unidentified correspondent] Amid various analyses and views expressed about the freeing of one U.S. hostage in Lebanon, political circles in Western Europe and the United States have announced one of the ways to free all Western hostages in Lebanon is to free more than (?three) hundred Muslim Lebanese and Palestinian captives in the frightful Khiam camp in the occupied territories [as heard] as well as the freeing of Shaykh 'Abd al-Karim 'Ubayd, one of the struggling Lebanese clerics who was openly taken hostage last year by the Zionist forces.

Dr. 'Ali Akbar Velayati, our country's foreign minister, who is taking part in the special session of foreign ministers of the Nonaligned Movement at UN headquarters, in various interviews given last night and today, has announced the solution to ending the issue of hostage-taking is the release of all the hostages, regardless of their nationality which includes Iranian, Lebanese, Palestinian, and Western hostages. Stressing that with its four hostages who are kept by the Lebanese Phalangists, Iran has been the first victim of hostage-taking, Dr. Velayati referred to the captivity of hundreds of Muslim Lebanese and Palestinian hostages in the hands of the Zionists and their Phalangist agents in Lebanon.

By giving wide coverage to the viewpoints of our country's foreign minister, Western news sources are now pressing the British and U.S. Governments to exert sufficient pressure on the Phalangists and the Zionists for freeing Muslim Iranian, Palestinian, and Lebanese hostages.

Mohtashemi Argues Against Renewal of U.S. Ties*NC2404135890 Paris AFP in English 1318 GMT
24 Apr 90*

[Text] Tehran, April 24 (AFP)—A leading Iranian hard-liner and opponent of President 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani has spoken out strongly against any renewal in U.S.-Iranian diplomatic relations. Hojjat ol-Eslam 'Ali Akbar Mohtashemi, in the weekly magazine Shahed, denounced the United States as "a ferocious animal that can only harm the interests of Iran."

Maintaining a boycott on ties with Washington "is necessary to safeguard ... Islamic revolutionary ideology, as well as popular and national interests," said Mr. Mohtashemi, a former interior minister dropped from the cabinet last August by President Hashemi-Rafsanjani.

Mr. Mohtashemi warned in his article that "the United States will never give us the technology needed for our industrialization. It seeks only the dependence of the Third World."

Now an MP [member of parliament] from Tehran, Mr. Mohtashemi opposes the president's determination to secure the release of Western hostages in Lebanon, many of whom are in the hands of pro-Iranian groups, in order to attract Western economic assistance.

When President Hashemi-Rafsanjani last month said the hostage question was "moving toward a solution," Mr. Mohtashemi appealed to the kidnappers to hang on to their captives.

Following the release Sunday [22 April] in Beirut of U.S. hostage Robert Polhill, after intensive Iranian-Syrian consultations, the United States publicly thanked Iran but said normal relations would have to await the release of the seven remaining hostages in Lebanon.

The influential TEHRAN TIMES newspaper on Monday [23 April] urged the kidnappers to free a second American held in Lebanon in order to determine if Washington was prepared to show "goodwill" toward Iran.

Velayati Attends UN Special Session in New York**Meets Regional Counterparts***LD2404132790 Tehran IRNA in English 0630 GMT
24 Apr 90*

[Text] New York, United Nations, April 24, IRNA—Iran's Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati currently here for the 18th special session of the U.N. General Assembly discussed expansion of Tehran-Islamabad ties with his Pakistani counterpart Sahabzada Yaqub Khan on Monday [23 April]. Regional and international issues including the current situation in Afghanistan, Kashmir and the forthcoming meeting of the Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC) to be held in Cairo, were also discussed in the meeting.

On the Afghan issue, Yaqub Khan stressed importance of Iran's role saying that the Islamic Republic not only had a great impact on future of Afghanistan but on that of the entire region. The Pakistani minister said that his country was ready to cooperate with the Iranian delegation in the Cairo OIC meet.

Velayati stressed importance of Tehran-Islamabad ties and welcomed mutual cooperation at international forums. On Afghanistan he said that Iran supports holding of elections in that country provided all people enjoy equal rights and security.

In a similar meeting with the Malaysian foreign minister, Datuk Haji Abu Hassan Omar, Velayati briefed him on Iraq's hampering of the implementation of the Resolution 598.

The two sides stressed importance of Iran-Malaysai joint economic commission on expansion of mutual ties.

Meanwhile, Tehran-Ankara ties, activities of the Economic Cooperation Organisation (ECO) grouping Iran, Turkey and Pakistan as well as other regional and international issues were discussed during a meeting of Turkish foreign minister Ali Bozer with Velayati.

Confers With SFRY Counterpart

*LD2404212790 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
1630 GMT 24 Apr 90*

[Text] The foreign ministers of Iran and Yugoslavia met at the UN headquarters on the sidelines of the special UN General Assembly session. According to an IRNA report from the United Nations, at the meeting important regional and international issues were discussed.

Yugoslavia's minister of foreign affairs, whose country is currently chairman of the Nonaligned Movement, called for Iran's cooperation in advancing nonaligned affairs. In this meeting bilateral relations, as well as the forthcoming visit of Yugoslav foreign minister to Tehran, were also discussed.

Calls on NAM To Defend Principles

*LD2404211690 Tehran IRNA in English 1905 GMT
24 Apr 90*

[Text] United Nations, New York, April 24, IRNA—Iran's foreign minister today called on non-aligned states to devote themselves more than ever to the defence of the principles of the movement. Addressing the opening session of an extraordinary meeting of NAM [Non-aligned Movement] foreign ministers here, 'Ali Akbar Velayati also called on NAM members "to stand up against various manifestations of domination." Velayati added that "the new configuration of blocs calls for more integration and pragmatic and stronger presence in political and economic scene. Reassessment of capabilities, resources and potentials...and protection of the spirit of independence of the movement in all its dimensions are among the principal duties of the movement in our time."

Commenting on drastic changes sweeping across the world, Velayati expressed regret that while the trend of decreasing tension in the world has got underway, peoples of the world had to witness such policies and developments inconsistent with such a trend.

Citing the U.S. invasion of Panama as an example, Velayati noted "the invasion of Panama should not be forgotten. This flagrant lawlessness showed that big powers, motivated by their interests, will recourse to the use of force as an arm of their foreign policy." He warned that what happened in Panama yesterday tomorrow may befall any other country showing incompatibility with the so-called vital interests of big powers. "This is only tantamount to undermining the independence, national sovereignty and the self-determination of all nations, or

indeed the same phenomenon against which the Non-Aligned Movement rose up since its very first day," he said.

Elsewhere in his speech, the Iranian foreign minister said that while the 1990's has been named "the decade of international law" how it is possible to ignore the "illegal" phenomenon of Jewish immigration and their settlement in the occupied land of Palestine.

He also welcomed to the Movement the delegation of the sovereign state of Namibia which had already been represented by the South West African People's Organization (SWAPO).

Paper Notes Iraqi Intransigence in Peace Talks

*LD2404134990 Tehran IRNA in English 0756 GMT
24 Apr 90*

[Text] Tehran, April 24, IRNA—An English-daily Tuesday [24 April] argued whether the new forthcoming round of peace talks between Iran and Iraq would bear any fruit in case Iraq continued its intransigence and the U.N. leader was influenced by political considerations.

In an editorial 'KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL', commented that therefore: "there would be no reason for Iran to vest hope in the negotiation table and in efforts which seem to have no color of realism and justice seeking."

The new round of peace talks is expected to be held within a month while previous rounds have failed to bring about peace between the two neighbors who fought a bloody war for eight years, said the article.

"Regrettably though, lack of international pressure on Iraq for impeding the implementation of the resolution, has actually stalled the peace process," stressed the daily.

It noted that although the U.N. secretary general Javier Perez de Cuellar was fully aware of Baghdad's repeated obstructionism in the course of the talks, he had failed to censure Iraq for hindering the return of peace and tranquility to the volatile Persian Gulf region.

"The result of this shortcoming is that 21 months after the ceasefire even the first paragraph of the Resolution 598, that is the end of hostilities and withdrawal of troops to internationally recognized borders, has not yet been implemented," regretted the editorial.

Italian Envoy Warned Over Iraqi Gunboat Sale

*LD2404172890 Tehran IRNA in English 1533 GMT
24 Apr 90*

[Text] Tehran, April 24, IRNA—Italy's wayward policy towards the Islamic Republic underlines the need for Iranian policy-makers to think twice before making any decision on expanding economic and political ties with that southern European state. Shortly after signing a trade contract with Iran in Rome, which equals 10 per cent of the total reconstruction budget set by the first

five-year economic development plan of the Islamic Republic, Italy seems to have again been bitten by the bug of inconsistency.

If ever the Rome government goes ahead with its misconstrued decision to deliver gunboats to the Iraqi regime, this will be interpreted as "Italy's unfriendly intentions" towards the Islamic Republic, and as a result it seems it is high time for adopting a calculated stance vis-a-vis such waywardness.

The allocation of a major part of the reconstruction budget for Tehran-Rome economic accords, indicates the fact that the Islamic Republic thinks of peace and tranquility and that its huge investment in reconstruction projects is based upon the same fact.

"How can Italy, that had its share in the drawing up of the U.N. Security Council [Resolution] 598, maintain such a double-faced policy towards the two opponents?" It is irony indeed. On one hand, Italy provides Ba'hist Iraq with deadly means of destruction, and on the other claims that it wants to participate in the rebuilding of ruins in Iran caused by the very same means.

The Italian Government would better be advised to worry about its own face, at least in the light of its calls for Persian Gulf 'peace and security' during the eight-year old Iraqi imposed war. It is still not too late for Italy to reconsider its rashness, and it should be borne in mind that the delivery of gunboats to Iraq will only serve to make known to the world the fact that cheap profiteering overrides Rome's claims of logic.

The Italian ambassador in Tehran was summoned to the Foreign Ministry yesterday [23 April] and was told of Iran's "grave concern" over the reports of his government's decision to deliver 11 gunboats to Iraq.

The Rome government, too, should be concerned about the possible straining of its economic ties with Tehran in case it carries out its incorrect decision.

***Italian Firms Take Heavy Losses in Bandar 'Abbas**

90OI0226Q London KEYHAN in Persian 5 Apr 90 p 4

[Text] Participation in the construction of port facilities at Bandar 'Abbas by Italians has brought losses to two Italian contractor companies, Italstat and Societa' Italiana Per Condotte d'Acqua. According to reports from reliable sources in Italy, these two contractors lost \$1.52 billion on the Bandar 'Abbas expansion project.

The Milan newspaper IL SOLE-24 ORE recently revealed for the first time the \$1.5 billion loss of the two Italian companies in the construction of the Bandar 'Abbas port facilities as a part of a report on the activities of Italian companies outside the country. The newspaper wrote: Renato Ruggiero, Italian minister of foreign commerce, announced to Italian senators while submitting a confidential report to this country's Senate Budget Commission that the two Italian government companies lost

\$1.52 billion because of their participation in the reconstruction and expansion of Bandar 'Abbas and the problems arising from the Islamic revolution and the onset of the war between the Islamic Republic and Iraq.

In part of its report, this newspaper portrayed the extensive activities of Italian contractor companies in the Islamic Republic and discussed the significant contracts recently signed by the Islamic Republic with Italian companies, and it noted that the activities to expand the port facilities at Bandar 'Abbas began before the Islamic revolution in Iran. The economic publication IL SOLE-24 ORE, continuing its report, added: The sustained activities of these two Italian government contractor companies in Bandar 'Abbas led to the completion of the construction of modern facilities at this port in 1986. Apparently the Islamic Republic, as the result of foreign exchange problems and the development of differences of opinion with Italian officials of the contracting companies, refused to pay the amount in the contract, estimated by the Italians at about \$2 billion. The differences between the officials of the Islamic Republic and the Italian contractor companies were followed by lengthy negotiations between the two nations, and finally led to the Islamic Republic paying Italy \$480 million, thereby ending the dispute.

Citing Italian economic experts, this newspaper wrote: The amount proposed by the Islamic Republic was quite insignificant and accounts for only one-fourth of the expenses the two Italian companies incurred in their activities, and thus the Italian contractor companies lost about \$1.5 billion on their activities building and expanding the Bandar 'Abbas port facilities.

****Unprecedented Agreement' Signed with Italy**

90OI0226I London KEYHAN in Persian
12 Apr 90 pp 1, 4

[Text] At the end of a visit by a delegation from the Islamic Republic to Italy, it was announced that an unprecedented agreement for industrial and economic cooperation between Iran and Italy during the next five years has been signed. The volume of commercial and economic exchanges provided in this agreement is \$13 billion.

It was also announced that the financial disagreements between the two nations, which revolved around a figure of about \$550 million, have been resolved.

The cooperation between Iran and Italy in the framework of this agreement will include cooperation in the areas of metal foundries, mining, the construction of iron foundries, petrochemical industries, the extraction and smelting of lead and zinc, projects to expand the copper unit and produce agricultural and industrial machinery and vehicles.

Italy will also cooperate with Iran in the construction of electrical power stations, transportation facilities, and fisheries. Mahluji, the Islamic government's minister of

mines and metals, who signed this agreement with Italy on Friday of this week, announced that this unprecedented agreement will begin an important chapter in relations between the two nations, and that it is effective for Iran in the transfer of technology and knowledge.

Mahluji said that extensive economic and commercial cooperation has been established with Italy on the basis of the existing political agreement between the Islamic Republic and the Italian government.

Concerning the bilateral agreement, he said: Both governments share the same position on the prohibition of the manufacture, storage, and use of chemical weapons, and in addition Italy is aligned with Iran on the question of the implementation of UN Resolution 598.

We note that Italy is a Western European nation that has been visited by an official of the Islamic government at the level of prime minister (during the period of Prime Minister Musavi).

The volume of commercial exchanges between Iran and Italy increased 55 percent in 1988, and Iran was ranked second among the nations exporting oil to Italy.

Currently the Italians are cooperating with the Islamic government in the Mobarakeh steel project, the Arak Refinery petrochemical project, and projects to transfer power in Iran.

Following the resolution of the financial disagreements between the two countries, the Fiat Company began negotiations to obtain a concession to build a Fiat factory with a capacity of 150,000 automobiles in Iran. It is said that part of this factory's production will be exported.

Majles Commission Approves Expanding Gulf Ties

LD2204194990 Tehran IRNA in English 1830 GMT
22 Apr 90

[Text] Tehran, April 22, IRNA—The Foreign Policy Commission of the Islamic Consultative Assembly (Majles) today discussed Iran's relations with Persian Gulf states.

The commission meeting before a group of Foreign Ministry officials emphasized broadening of ties with the Persian Gulf states, and upheld measures taken in that regard.

***Financial Differences With France Near Resolution**

90010226R London KEYHAN in Persian 12 Apr 90 p 1

[Text] At the end of the fifth round of talks between representatives of the Islamic Republic and the Government of France last Thursday [5 April], Mahmud Va'ez, the Islamic Republic's deputy minister of foreign affairs for European and American political affairs, announced that significant progress has been made solving the financial differences with the French Government.

Mahmud Va'ez announced that one of four disputed files has been closed and the two sides are closer on the figures for two other files, and the other file, which has not been resolved, will be "deeply studied" next month during the sixth round of talks in France.

Of these four files, one pertains to the principal and interest on a \$1 billion loan to France from Iran made before the Islamic revolution. Two files pertain to semi-completed projects by French companies in Iran and one file pertains to Iran's participation in the French Eurodif company.

Mahmud Va'ez declined to give more information concerning the files on which agreement was reached, on the grounds that the agreement with France was that all four disagreements would be resolved at one time, and therefore he cannot currently reveal the figures agreed to now.

Mahmud Va'ez characterized the spirit of the talks as "flexible" and "with political will to eliminate the problems in bilateral relations." The financial disagreements between Iran and France can actually be divided into three topics:

(1) The principal and interest on a \$1 billion loan to France from Iran made before the Islamic revolution. The French Government has now paid the Islamic government \$630 million of this amount, but it is withholding payment on the balance because some French companies were forced to abandon their projects in the course of the Islamic revolution and suffered losses. In addition to the remaining \$370 million of the principal on the loan, the Islamic government is demanding a huge sum as interest on the 10-year period.

(2) The \$52 million loan from Iran to the Eurodif Company, for which no money has yet been repaid to the Islamic government.

(3) Losses suffered by French companies, now believed by the French Government to be greater than its remaining debt to Iran. It is for this reason that France is withholding further payments to the Islamic government.

Mahmud Va'ez discussed the agreement reached in this round of talks with Francois Scheer, the French first deputy foreign minister. He said:

"They believed that in the final tally we would have to pay something, while we believed and believe that money is owed to us, and fortunately in this round of talks they agreed fairly that they would have to pay money to us, and we have now begun serious discussions concerning how much this sum is to be."

USSR, Iran Agree on 'Id Al-Fitr Border Visits

LD2404163390 Tehran IRNA in English 1444 GMT
24 Apr 90

[Text] Tabriz (East Azerbaijan), April 24, IRNA—Azerbaijani Muslims on either side of the Iran-Soviet

Union borders can exchange visits for two days on the occasion of 'Id al-Fitr, marking the end of fasting Ramadan, if Moscow announces readiness in this regard, an official from the governor general office said here today.

"We have already informed Soviet officials via Tehran of our readiness to allow the two countries' nationals to exchange 'Id greetings next Friday and Saturday [27 and 28 April] in Bileh Savar and Jolfa border areas, and are awaiting the Soviet consent," he said.

People on both sides of the Iran-Soviet border share a common religion, language and culture, and the official noted that visits will be allowed up to 45 kms deep inside the borders.

Elsewhere, he said, since Soviet Azerbaijanis are not allowed to carry currency with them, Iran has made arrangements for certain amount of Soviet and Iranian money in order to help the visitors buy souvenirs.

"Commercial aspects are in no way involved in visits which take place merely for reunion of Muslims of the two countries on the auspicious occasion of 'Id al-Fitr," said the official.

He said a protocol for border trade exchanges has already been inked by the two neighbours, on the basis of which East Azerbaijan will have an annual dlr. 15 million border trade with the Soviet republic of the same name.

The official also expressed readiness for exchange of economic, sport, cultural and industrial delegations with Soviet Azerbaijan.

Delegation Ends Nakhichevan Republic Visit

LD2104171790 Tehran IRNA in English 1624 GMT 21 Apr 90

[Text] Orumiyeh (West Azerbaijan), April 21, IRNA—Repair work started on the road and bridge at the Takdagh border region near Pol Dasht Town today, following the first ever visit of an Iranian delegation to the Soviet Autonomous Republic of Nakhichevan.

Ali Sa'adat who led the delegation on the two-day visit, said after his return home, that the visit was at the invitation of Nakhichevan Prime Minister Ismael Aliyev.

He said facilities for cross-border visits between frontiersmen on each side, and setting up of a Customs Office and administrative unit in the Takdagh Region were discussed during the visit.

Aliyev called for establishment of a common market as well as border trade exchanges during his talks with the Iranian delegates, said Sa'adat who is political deputy to the West Azerbaijan governor-general.

People on both sides of the Iran-USSR border share a common religion, language and culture, and according to

the Iranian official "after the completion of the bridge, exchange of visits between the border inhabitants will be announced."

***Natural Gas Export to USSR Begins 9 Apr**

90OI0226J London KEYHAN in Persian 12 Apr 90 p 1

[Text] The final treaty to export Iran's natural gas to the Soviet Union was signed on Sunday 8 April. This treaty was signed by the acting director of the National Iranian Gas Company and the representative of the Soviet government.

Under this treaty, as of Monday this week [9 April] the export of raw gas to the Soviet Union begins at the rate of 8 million cubic meters per day. The export gas is moved 1300 kilometers through a 58-inch pipe from the Kangan gas refinery to Astara, then delivered to the Soviet Union from there.

The primary issue for the export of natural gas to the Soviet Union was setting the price. According to Aqazadeh, minister of petroleum, the Islamic government now sets the price based on international prices and this has been agreed to. In an interview with the Islamic Republic News Agency, Aqazadeh said that changes in the price of export gas will be linked to the changes in oil contracts on the international market, and he claimed that the agreed formula for setting the price of export gas based on oil prices is "one of the good formulas."

Aqazadeh announced that Iran's income from the sale of more than 3 billion cubic meters of gas per year to the Soviet Union will be \$300 million, the credits for which will be kept in a special account and used to build dams and power stations and to carry out the projects of the Ministry of Mines and Metals and the Ministry of Petroleum and Gas.

Aqazadeh declined to say the current price of a cubic meter of gas.

Foreign Ministry Denounces Nigerian Coup Attempt

NC2404054490 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 24 Apr 90

[Text] The Islamic Republic of Iran Foreign Ministry issued a statement denouncing the plot of the abortive coup in Nigeria two days ago [22 April]. The statement termed the plot evidence of the depth of the malice of the enemies of nations, who attempt to prevent Third World countries from attaining stability and sovereignty.

Part of the statement says: In the Nigerian coup leaders' announcement, they mentioned a desire for a part of the country to secede. This proves that the abortive coup in the African country of Nigeria is a colonialist action by internal agents intended to create dissent in the Nigerian nation and to divide its territory.

The statement also says: The Islamic Republic of Iran's Government condemns the latest abortive coup in

Nigeria and calls on the people there to preserve their unity and cohesion and to strive to preserve the sovereignty and territorial integrity of their country.

President Meets With New Envoy to Romania

LD2204090390 Tehran IRNA in English 0730 GMT
22 Apr 90

[Text] Tehran, April 22, IRNA—The Islamic Republic of Iran's new ambassador to Romania 'Abdol-Rasul Mohajer was received by President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani here Saturday [21 April] and discussed Tehran-Bucharest ties.

During the meeting, the president asked Mohajer to take necessary steps toward realization of the already-reached agreements between the two countries as the new Romanian government has pledged to abide by its commitments and has adopted positive attitudes towards Iran.

The Iranian Foreign Ministry summoned former Iranian ambassador to Romania Mohammad Jamshid Gohari immediately after the Romanian dictator Nicolae Ceausescu visited Tehran days before his execution. Gohari was sacked consequently for failing to provide accurate reports on the Romanian internal situation.

***Israel Allegedly Overflew Iran To Attack Iraq**

90010226C London KEYHAN in Persian 5 Apr 90 p 1

[Text] Fifteen aircraft of the Israeli Air Force used Iranian airspace on 7 June 1981 to level to the ground the Iraqi atomic research center, Osirak. The Islamic government issued permission to fly over Iran to reach Iraq in exchange for needed weapons and munitions.

Western military experts, especially American experts, have now concluded that the story of complicity in the Israeli flights over Jordan and Saudi Arabia without monitoring by the surveillance systems of these two nations was never true. These experts believe that these aircraft definitely attacked Iraq through Iranian airspace, rather than through Jordanian and Saudi airspace, as claimed by the Israelis.

After the Israeli attacks on the Iraqi center, Israeli military officials claimed that Israeli warplanes, after aerial refueling, flew over Jordan and Saudi Arabia to Iraq.

The newspaper INDEPENDENT, which printed the views of the American experts in this regard, wrote that on the day of the attack by the Israeli warplanes on the Iraqi atomic center on 17 [as published] June 1981, only 70 of the 400 French atomic experts and specialists remained at the center. The French government removed 330 of these experts from Iraq after a practice attack on this atomic center by two Israeli aircraft in 1980 at the beginning of the Iran-Iraq war.

Resistance Leader Assassinated in Switzerland

MKO Accuses Iranian Regime

JN2404203090 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1945 GMT
24 Apr 90

[Text] Baghdad, 24 Apr (INA)—The Mojahedin-e Khalq Organization [MKO] today reported the assassination of Dr. Kazem Rajavi, the brother of Iranian resistance leader Mr. Masud Rajavi, today in Switzerland at the hands of the Iranian regime.

Mojahed radio, the organization's mouthpiece which broadcast the news, said that Swiss police sources did not reveal the details of the incident, apart from informing the wife of Dr. Kazem Rajavi, who represented the Mojahedin-e-Khalq organization in Switzerland, a few hours before it was announced to the public.

The radio cited Mr. Masud Rajavi as saying that the Iranian embassy in Switzerland is the one who organized the assassination at the orders of the president of the Iranian regime, Hashemi-Rafsanjani. It said that Mr. Rajavi has asked the Swiss Government to pursue the perpetrators of the act and to try them. He also called on the United Nations secretary general and the Human Rights Commission to condemn this crime.

It is worth mentioning that Mr. Masud Rajavi's wife and sister were killed in recent years by the Iranian regime.

Dead Man 'High-Ranking' Monafeqin

LD2504090390 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
0430 GMT 25 Apr 90

[Text] A high-ranking member of the Monafeqin [hypocrites—Mojahedin-e Khalq Organization] group was assassinated in Switzerland yesterday. The Monafeqin was named by REUTER news agency as 56-year-old Kazem Rajavi. REUTER added: He was shot by two unknown armed men. The dead man was the head of the Monafeqin group in Switzerland.

The Swiss police reported: The head of the Monafeqin in Switzerland was driving toward his residence when he was stopped by passengers of a Volkswagen car and shot in the head at close range. The unknown armed individuals drove away.

Regime Denies Involvement

LD2504091190 Tehran IRNA in English 0725 GMT
25 Apr 90

[Text] United Nations, New York, April 25, IRNA—Iran's U.N. mission in Geneva categorically denied any involvement in murder of the outlawed Mojahedin-e Khalq Organisation (MKO) member, Kazem Rajavi.

"The accusation is a mere lie," said an informed source in the mission in a telephone contact with IRNA here Tuesday [24 April]. He added that in light of the prevalent Western disrespect for the Baghdad regime, it is

likely that the MKO, which is given shelter in Iraq, in collaboration with Baghdad has taken advantage of the situation to mar the prestige of the Islamic Republic.

The MKO has accused the office of involvement in the murder of Rajavi in Switzerland.

The source stressed that the Islamic Republic has time and again condemned terrorism. He noted such accusations could have been evoked by a recent report of the U.N. special representative of the Commission on Human Rights, Rinaldo Ossorio, on human rights situation in Iran which outrightly rejected all absurd claims of the MKO.

Measures Against 'Economic Saboteurs' Urged

NC2004150990 Tehran KEYHAN in Persian
9 Apr 90 p 2

[Political commentary by Hoseyn Shari'atmadari: "Economic Saboteurs—The Crafty Wolves"]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] The "need for a decisive approach toward economic saboteurs and arsonists" is once again the topic of the day. Its urgency is not hidden from the people. The eminent Majles speaker has stressed the need for a decisive approach and the people's deputies have presented a single-urgency motion to the Majles in order to unravel the "knot of justice" on this crucial issue, as it has been termed by the head of the judiciary.

If we wish to speak frankly about this issue and not just talk about "ripping off veils," as in fact there are no veils, then we should openly declare that if taking a decisive approach toward the economic saboteurs and the corrupt is confined to raising a hue and cry and delivering pompous speeches, the same old story will only be repeated. Such a state of affairs is not only discouraging and deeply disheartening, but it also spawns a host of problems.

Even though those who have taken the initiative, as it is considered "in common speech," against the parasitical leeches and unfurled the banner of a campaign against them are lobbying for cries of applause of "wonderful! well done!," it may be said that "the dictates of intelligence" demand that first they should be condemned for their laxity and procrastination over the past years. Such condemnation may be more appropriate than accolades of "wonderful! well done!," as according to our late imam (may God be pleased with him) the Majles is the essence of the nation's nobility and the officials are the servants of the people. Therefore we cannot condone the negligence over the past years by this "essence" and ignore the "principles" of "service" of these "givers of bounties."

For years, the blows dealt by the money-hoarders and opulent ones wounded the body of the nation and made it wallow in blood merely for its crime of being God-seeking and steadfast in the face of world infidels. Who

does not know that the lords of wealth and might, who are stooges in the hands of the powers of world arrogance, are taking revenge on the Iranian nation for seeking God and loving Islam? [passage omitted]

Thus, a relentless and constant campaign against economic saboteurs and wealth-hoarders and opulent ones should be considered part of the "war of wealth versus penury" just as his eminence the imam (may God be pleased with him) had stressed and should be fought as he insisted on a "one-to-one" basis.

In conclusion, it is obvious that this struggle and campaign cannot be carried on only on the basis of advice and warnings or of speeches and articles, even though these are also necessary. It requires a tumultuous uproar which will uproot the enemies of God and the Prophet (may God's blessings be upon him and his scion). According to our lord of the pious, our guide and mentor, and the commander of the faithful, 'Ali, peace be upon him, there can be no tidal wave if there is not first a fierce storm. Until categorical and practical measures are implemented, mere thunder and lightning will not frighten these crafty wolves. [passage omitted]

Death Penalty for 'Economic Terrorists' Introduced

Profiteers, Hoarders Cited

AU2504081890 Hamburg DIE WELT in German
24 Apr 90 p 5

[Text] Nicosia—The Iranian Parliament has introduced the death penalty for black marketeers, profiteers, and hoarders. According to the new law, those "economic terrorists" who "commit offenses against institutions of the Islamic Republic" out of greed for profit are to be executed. The law is obviously intended to counter the increasing public displeasure about corruption, forcing up prices, and about the general supply situation. While goods are hardly available at official prices, the black market is flourishing.

*President Reportedly Opposed

90010226H London KEYHAN in Persian 12 Apr 90 p 2

[Text] A proposal called the National Economic Saboteur Penalties Bill was sent to the Majles as a single-urgency motion Sunday this week [8 April], and the urgency rating was approved at the same session. No information was published about the contents of the bill, but sharp clashes are expected between its opponents and supporters as its details are being approved in the Majles. Hashemi-Rafsanjani opposes this proposal.

The issue of the National Economic Saboteur Penalties Bill was raised and pursued a month ago by the regime's extremists, but it is not exactly clear who the saboteurs are in the nation's economic system.

The regime's extremist faction, which advocates social reform through punishments, execution, and imprisonment, has even raised the issue of executing "economic

terrorists." It was the pressure from this faction that recently prompted Sheykh Mohammad Yazdi, chief of the judicial power, to announce that even though Islam has not mentioned the "economic terrorist," if the legislative power were to pass a law to execute such people, the judicial power would implement it with all earnestness.

In the view of political observers, since the regime's extremists generally see economic terrorists and saboteurs as those who have gained enormous wealth through commercial activities, it is expected that the passage of such a law would prevent the use of capital within the country and the expansion of economic activities.

We note that Hashemi-Rafsanjani, in his Friday [6 April] prayer sermon this week, condemned narrow-minded thinking and said: One must be broad-minded and put aside pointless, small ideas, and permit the people to help bring prosperity to the deprived areas with their knowledge, technology, and capital.

He took a position squarely in opposition to those deputies who presented the National Economic Saboteur Penalties Bill to the Majles, and he emphasized that the guarantee must be given to owners of capital, and they must be given the necessary resources to be able to make the nation prosperous.

President Seeks 'Basic Reform' in Banking

Stresses Private Capital

NC1904163890 Paris AFP in English 1512 GMT
19 Apr 90

[By Kianousche Dorrane]e

[Text] Tehran, April 19 (AFP)—President 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani has come out in favor of a "basic reform" of the Iranian banking system and wants to have private capital play "a greater role" in Iranian economic life, the Tehran press reported Thursday [19 April].

His move comes after the regime's "hard-liners" submitted a parliamentary bill on April 8 calling for the death penalty for holders of large amounts of capital who do not put it at the service of Islam. Since then, the president has launched a counter-offensive, opposing what he views as a radical initiative sure to sap the confidence of the private sector at a time when the country needs that sector in productive activity.

The plan for reforming the banking system was discussed Wednesday evening [18 April] at a meeting Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani held with senior managers and monetary policy officials, attended by Finance Minister Mohsen Nurbakhsh and the Central Bank governor, Mohammad Hoseyn 'Adeli.

President Hashemi-Rafsanjani intends to break with the financial policy of the former government headed by Mir

Hoseyn Musavi, which favored strong government intervention. He attaches "primordial importance" to the banks' activities in connection with his policy of national reconstruction in the wake of eight years of war with Iraq. And he has stressed that they should contribute to "creating a sounder economy".

The Iranian president also said that "Use of credit cards and other initiatives taken by foreign banks to facilitate operations would be constructive and welcome".

He said that "Any initiative encouraging the participation in investments of private sector capital is beneficial to the country".

The chief of state urged banks to offer "more active financial participation in industrial projects in the private sector", adding that "The way has been paved to ensure new impetus to production, the costs of which will be amortized by high profits on capital".

The president also said that "the banks must establish a form of competition among themselves to be able to ensure their own growth and guarantee better services".

At the same meeting, Mr. 'Adeli offered a briefing on the banking business for the first six months of Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani's presidency, saying that "the banking system must act as an economic lever to carry out the policy of national reconstruction".

Iranian banks were nationalized after the Islamic revolution of 1979. Under the Musavi government, they played only a secondary role, acting as tools of the state.

To date, the banks' activity has been subject to Islamic principles, which ban usury and encourage interest-free loans. The initiative launched by the president and his financial officials would seem to prepare the way for a waiver of such strict principles, observers noted.

Private Banks Considered

TA2004183190 (Clandestine) Iran's Flag of Freedom
Radio in Persian 1630 GMT 20 Apr 90

[Excerpt] It was rumored in Tehran's bazaar yesterday that Hashemi-Rafsanjani proposed to several well-known capitalists and merchants that they set up a private bank. It is being said that he will also allow those banks that were confiscated during the revolution to resume operation.

This rumor is circulating at a time when, over the last eight months, Hashemi-Rafsanjani has been unable to implement any of his promises, such as lowering the dollar's price and attracting private capital for the regime's Five-Year Plan. Meanwhile, in recent weeks the people have drawn large quantities of their funds and deposits from the banks.

This report indicates that the regime's president, apprehensive over the monetary situation and investment

problems, consulted on Wednesday [18 April] with the banks' senior officials and the regime's financial authorities. [passage omitted]

***Lower Official Exchange Rate for Rial Expected**

90OI0226V London KEYHAN in Persian 12 Apr 90 p 4

[Text] The Islamic Republic may lower the official rate for the rial against that of the major foreign currencies. If such a plan is implemented, the value of the dollar against the rial will likely increase ten fold, and every American dollar will be equal to 700 rials of Iranian currency.

The news of the likelihood that the Islamic Republic would lower the rate of the rial against the dollar was published recently by the weekly London economic journal MEED [Middle East Economic Digest]. This journal, in a detailed report titled "Private Sector to Import \$2 Billion in Goods," writes: "The continuation of the Islamic regime's foreign exchange policy of selling dollars for 80 toman and selling foreign exchange for import at 50 toman per dollar means that in practice the regime is lowering the price of the rial against the dollar and other reputable foreign currencies."

MEED adds: "Ali Akbar Rafsanjani, the president of the Islamic Republic, recently announced that the matter of lowering the value of the rial against foreign currencies is under consideration, but this will be implemented when the nation's economy is sufficiently stable and the artificial elements have disappeared from the free market."

MEED says: "The rate likely to be announced by the Islamic regime in the event of a lowering of the value of the rial is 700 rials per dollar."

In part of its report, this journal portrays the Islamic Republic's economic problems and obstacles and describes the role of rising inflation in this nation. It writes: "The thriving black market for foreign currencies and the sale of dollars at several times the official price is one of the prominent indicators of severe and rising inflation in the Islamic Republic's economy. The value of the dollar early this year, after the Central Bank set 80 toman as the preferred rate, decreased to 100 toman. Even so, the decreased price did not last and gradually increased again. Currently the dollar is traded at more than 130 toman. This is about 19 times the official price of the dollar in the Islamic Republic."

MEED adds: "Although the regime has said rumors that the government will revise its policies and lower the price of the dollar are baseless, the dollar is still increasing in price, and the Central Bank has greatly restricted the availability of dollars at the official price."

Experts in bank affairs believe that the Islamic Republic's Ministry of Economic Affairs and Finance intends, by authorizing the activities of money-changers next summer, to try to lower the price of the dollar on the free

market. An official of this ministry recently announced that with the resumption of the activities of money-changers on the Tehran market and the Central Bank's support of them, the rates of exchange for the major foreign currencies would gradually stabilize and this might lead to a decrease in the rates of foreign currencies against the rial.

***Projected Gas, Oil Revenues Highest Since 1985**

90OI0226U London KEYHAN in Persian 5 Apr 90 p 4

[Text] In the budget for the current year, the Islamic Republic has estimated that it will earn \$15 billion in foreign exchange from the sale of export crude oil. Experts have said that this is the highest amount of projected foreign exchange revenue in an annual budget since 1985.

These experts also believe that the projection of \$15 billion as foreign exchange revenues from oil sales for the budget in the current year (1369) [21 March 1990-20 March 1991] is due to the fact that the international oil market is sufficiently stable, and it is expected that the price of every barrel of the Light Dubayy Fateh type will reach \$16.50 to \$17 by the end of the current Christian year. The production quota set by OPEC for Iran is 3.14 million barrels per day and the Islamic Republic will be able to market about 2.3 million barrels of this oil to obtain foreign exchange from buyer countries. Iranian oil officials have predicted that this nation's daily crude oil production will increase to 2.57 million barrels per day by the middle of 1991, and by early 1992 Iran's crude oil production is likely to rise to 4.3 to 4.5 million barrels per day.

An analysis of the nation's projected foreign exchange revenues in the current year's budget shows that the regime expects to earn about \$434 million in foreign exchange revenues through the sale of petroleum byproducts, and \$286 million through the export of natural gas to the Soviet Union.

In the text of the current year's budget, the Islamic Republic's budget officials have set a projected figure of \$23.2 billion in direct and indirect taxes, and if this projection is met, this year the Islamic Republic will collect about 41 percent more in taxes than in the year 1368 [21 March 1989-20 March 1990].

In the revenues column for the Islamic Republic's current annual budget, it is projected that the government will obtain an additional \$18.5 billion. Experts believe that most of this additional revenue projected by the Islamic regime's officials will come from the sale of foreign exchange at competitive prices (80 toman per dollar) to merchants and importers of goods and merchandise from abroad.

The London weekly economic journal MEED [Middle East Economic Digest], in analyzing the current year's

budget for the Islamic Republic, mentions the investments planned in the course of the Five-Year Development Plan. It writes: The Islamic Republic plans to use about \$27 billion in foreign capital in the next five years to invest in its various industrial development projects. Thus the average annual foreign investment in the next five years is estimated at about \$5.5 billion.

The above journal adds: The Islamic Republic's president announced that this nation relies on foreign investment in some areas, although the amount of this investment will be at a level that will not compromise the nation's independence.

***Report Announces Value of Non-Oil Exports**

90OI0226W London KEYHAN in Persian
12 Apr 90 p 4

[Text] In the first 10 months of last year (1368) [21 March 1989-20 January 1990] the Islamic Republic earned \$917 million in foreign exchange with the export of 1.206 million tons of non-petroleum goods. A comparison of the value of exports of goods of this type with that of the same period the previous year shows an increase of 22.4 percent by weight and 20.4 percent by value.

In a recent statistical report, the Islamic Republic Customs Public Relations Office announced that the chief non-petroleum exports exported in the first 10 months of last year were hand-woven wool carpets, pistachios and pistachio meats, and various hides. The report explained that in the last few years hand-woven wool carpets, pistachios and pistachio meats, and various hides have been Iran's top three non-petroleum export items.

An analysis of the statistics on the nation's non-petroleum exports in the period under study shows that the three items above made up more than 62 percent of the total value of the Islamic Republic's non-petroleum exports in the first 10 months of 1368.

Among the nation's other exports in the period under study, the top items were caviar, raisins, various kinds of gut, fresh fruits and vegetables, copper, various mining products, and sulphur.

In its statistical report, the Islamic Republic Customs noted that exported hand-woven wool carpets weighing 8,386 tons and valued at 20,076 rials made up about one-third of all of Iran's non-petroleum exports in the first 10 months of last year. Most of Iran's hand-woven wool carpets in the period under discussion were exported to the buyer countries through the Mehrabad and South Tehran customs offices. The Islamic Republic Customs Public Relations Office estimated that the amount of hand-woven wool carpets exported through these two customs offices made up more than 98 percent of all the nation's carpet exports.

Statistics published by the Islamic Republic Customs show that in the first 10 months of last year the export of

50,123 tons of pistachios and pistachio meats brought 14,191 million rials into the country.

In its report, the Islamic Republic Customs noted that about 22 percent of the value of all the nation's exports in the period under discussion came from pistachios and pistachio meats. Most of these went to buyer countries through the Kerman customs office. Among the chief export items in the period under discussion, various hides were in third place. The Islamic Republic Customs said that the weight of the various hides exported in the first 10 months of last year was 13,337 tons with a value of 5,571 million rials. Exports of various hides in the period under discussion made up about 8.5 percent of the total value of the nation's non-petroleum exports.

A foreign commerce expert told KEYHAN's reporter that apparently the Islamic Republic's efforts to increase its non-petroleum exports have not been that fruitful to date, and a comparison of the export figures for the major items last year with previous years show that the Islamic Republic's Ministry of Commerce has been frustrated in this area.

The expert added: In the heat of the Islamic Republic's eight-year war with Iraq, the regime's leaders gave as the main reason for the limited amounts of non-petroleum exports the continuation of the war and the insecurity of export routes, especially the disruption in the waters of the Persian Gulf and the malfunctions in Iran's export ports on the coast of the Persian Gulf. Although the war has now ended and the regime's propaganda tools are suddenly proclaiming that in the years to come the Islamic Republic will increase the nation's foreign exchange revenues from non-petroleum exports to about \$2.5 billion, an analysis of the figures on non-petroleum exports for the year 1367 [21 March 1988-20 March 1989] shows relative stability in the weight and value of these exports in the last few years.

The export affairs expert added: Statistics published by Islamic Republic Customs show that in the first nine months of 1367 the country earned about \$700 million through non-petroleum exports. This figure increased to about \$890 million in the period under discussion, and it is thus clear that even though about two years have gone by, the Islamic regime of Tehran's propaganda claims about quantity and quality, non-petroleum exports have not changed and it is expected that the value of Iran's non-petroleum exports will not exceed about \$1 billion per year.

***War Reconstruction Budget Reduced 20 Percent**

90OI0226G London KEYHAN in Persian 12 Apr 90 p 4

[Text] The national budget for the current year, validated early last week by the Council of Guardians after enactment by the Majles, has a deficit of about \$22.6 billion. The current year's \$22.6 billion budget deficit, despite the regime's claims that this deficit is reduced, shows an increase of 19 percent over last year.

The Islamic Republic's economic officials attributed the increased budget deficit to the allocation of significant amounts of credit to carry out the development projects provided in the Five-Year plan. Under the Islamic Republic's budget for the current year the regime is to increase investment in development and industrial projects by obtaining loans and credit from foreign financial institutions and companies. The figure approved for foreign exchange credits and loans from abroad in this budget has been estimated at \$5.4 billion.

In the current year's budget, expenses have been estimated at \$79.9 billion and revenues at \$57.3 billion. Accordingly, the budget deficit will be \$22.6 billion.

An important point in the current budget, which has attracted the attention of experts, is the striking decrease in the credits for repairing the damage done by the eight-year war with Iraq and the implementation of reconstruction projects. Reports from Tehran state that in the current year the budget to carry out projects to rebuild the ruins produced by the war has been reduced to \$0.5 billion, and thus the regime, despite its propaganda about efforts to repair war damage, has reduced its budget for this purchase about 20 percent compared to last year.

The reduction in the budget for reconstruction projects has led Mehdi Karrubi, the Majles speaker, to criticize the regime for this. Having travelled to the war-stricken areas to inspect progress on development projects, he said: Reconstruction operations are proceeding slowly, and they are not satisfactory.

Hamid Mirzadeh, deputy president of the Republic, answering the Majles speaker's criticism, said that the budget deficit is the reason for the slowness and lack of progress in reconstruction activities, and he announced that the Majles Plan and Budget Commission has reduced by half the proposed budget to carry out development and reconstruction projects and plans. Mirzadeh announced that the organizations carrying out development projects need a minimum of \$9 billion just to rebuild the cities destroyed by the war. This official predicted that operations to rebuild the war-stricken cities would be continued for many years. Hamid Mirzadeh told news correspondents: We need a budget of \$4.3 billion just to rebuild the cities of Khorramshahr and Abadan.

More on Armenian Protest of 1915 Turkish 'Massacre'

*LD2404172290 Tehran IRNA in English 1048 GMT
24 Apr 90*

[Text] Tehran, April 24, IRNA—Thousands of Iranian Armenians today staged a massive demonstration in condemnation of the April 24 massacre of 1.5 million Armenians by the Turkish Government in 1915. The demonstrators who gathered in front of the U.N. office here at the end of a rally which started from the Saint Sarkis Church, demanded liberation of the oppressed nations from the claws of imperialism.

In a five-point resolution issued by the demonstrators, they called on the Iranian officials to condemn the 1915 massacre and support the Armenians in their struggle for materialization of justice. The resolution also called on international circles, mainly the U.N., to condemn the crime of the Turkish Government and prevent it from destroying historical and cultural sites belonging to the Armenians. It also demanded preservation of the right for the Armenians to pay pilgrimage to the shrine of one of the Jesus Christ's apostles who first promulgated Christianity in Armenia, and visits to other historical and religious places in Turkey.

The resolution urged the Soviet Government to condemn and annul plots and instigations of the Turkish Government in the Soviet republics which have claimed lives of the Armenians in several places.

It also advised the present Turkish Government, as a successor of previous governments, to condemn the 1915 massacre and thereby take a step in materialization of legitimate rights of the Armenians and establishment of peace and tranquility in the region.

A group of Iranian Armenians had staged a 24-hour sit-in in front of the U.N. office since 12:00 hours Monday [23 April], calling on international bodies to condemn the Turkish Government and take measures for the restoration of their usurped lands in Turkey.

A similar protest rally was held in Esfahan, central Iran, which was attended by the archbishop of the Gregorian Armenians in Esfahan and southern Iran.

Meanwhile, a 24-hour sit-in of a group of Armenians in Vank Church in Esfahan, ended at noon today. The demonstrators later held a mass prayer.

Pakistan

Kashmir Front Warns of Protests Against U.S.

*BK2404131490 Islamabad THE PAKISTAN TIMES
in English 24 Apr 90 p 10*

[Text] Rawalpindi—The Jammu Kashmir Liberation Front (JKLF) would launch a protest campaign if the U.S. Administration served the notice on Mr. Amanullah Khan to leave the United States of America.

This was stated by Dr. Farooq Haider, the Acting Chairman of JKLF at a press conference. He said that the chief of JKLF was planning to visit the Netherlands, Denmark, France, Saudi Arabia, UAE [United Arab Emirates], Qatar and Kuwait after his visit of the United States to inform the public opinion in these countries about the real situation in Indian-held Kashmir.

He said that when the Indian Army has created bunkers in practically every street of the Occupied Kashmir and almost every house is being watched by the security

agencies, the denial of permission by the U.S. Administration to Mr. Amanullah Khan to stay in that country means helping the Indian atrocities by the Indian security agencies.

The JKLF Acting Chief said that the Indian Government had done everything to crush the Kashmiris struggle for freedom, but without any positive results. He said that because of the efforts made by the JKLF the world now knows that Kashmir is not a problem between two countries but a separate problem. He also regretted that the attitude of Muslim countries is not very praiseworthy.

He revealed that JKLF will demonstrate in front of American and Indian embassies the world over if the visa of Mr. Amanullah was cancelled.

It may be recalled that the State Department has expressed its intention to cancel the visa issued to Kashmiri leader, Mr. Amanullah, who is presently visiting the United States.

He also disclosed that different organisations who are struggling for the liberation of Kashmir have decided to create a council to look after the interests of all the fighting groups. These parties include Hizbul-Mujahideen, Al-Umar, Al-Inqilab, Operation Balakot, Kashmir Students Liberation Front.

Those who accompanied Dr. Farooq Haider at the press conference include Sardar Rashid Hasrat, Chief Organizer of JKLF, Sardar Khalil Habib, Secretary General, and Sardar Sajid Hameed Naz, Chairman Kashmir Students Liberation Front.

Government Warns of 'Reaction'

BK2504021890 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu
0100 GMT 25 Apr 90

[Text] Pakistan has told the United States that Mr. Amanullah Khan is an important leader of the Kashmir independence struggle and he should be respected as such. A senior official of the Foreign Ministry in Islamabad said last night that Pakistan has demanded that Mr. Amanullah Khan be treated justly and, if he is hurt, there will be a strong reaction from Pakistan and elsewhere. Pakistan has acted in this manner after receiving reports that the United States has revoked Mr. Amanullah Khan's visa.

U.S. Accused of Disinformation on Afghanistan

BK2004130690 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English
20 Apr 90 pp 1, 6

[Rahimullah Yusufzai commentary]

[Text] There is no truth in the news carried by a section of the local and foreign press that Afghanistan's President Dr. Najibullah has executed two leading Khalqis Saleh Muhammad Ziray and Ghulam Dastagir Panshiri

and dismissed two of his Parchami ministers Abdul Wakil and Sulayman La'eq in the wake of the failed March 6 coup attempt.

The news was splashed in banner headlines in certain Pakistani newspapers Wednesday [18 April]. Some of them quoted Voice of America and Western diplomats as the source of the story.

Interestingly enough, the news story was based on a briefing given at the U.S. Embassy in Islamabad to foreign journalists based in Pakistan yesterday. The U.S. Embassy has regularly held such briefings every Tuesday to share information gathered through its sources with Western journalists. Iranian newspapers "Kayhan International" and "Tehran Times" have often derided these briefings as "Tuesday follies".

The U.S. Embassy in Islamabad later retracted its statement and apologised to journalists who had attended the briefing yesterday afternoon. It was stated that an embassy official not very conversant with the job had mistakenly provided wrong information to the journalists about the executions and cabinet reshuffles in Kabul. It was understood that rumours circulating in Kabul and elsewhere, which American diplomats carefully check before passing on to the media people, were yesterday dished out as facts.

Both Saleh Muhammad Ziray and Dastagir Panshiri have served as ministers and were members of the ruling PDPA for quite some time after the April 1978 Saur revolution. They were recently expelled from the PDPA and its central committee along with 22 other Khalqis for their alleged involvement in the March 6 coup bid. Dr. Najib had set up revolutionary courts for their trial and had vowed to punish those found involved in the coup.

The trial has yet to get underway hence Ziray's and Panshiri's executions at this stage appears premature. Even otherwise, the Soviet Union is unlikely to approve executions or other harsh punishments to the leading Khalqis in the same way in which it came to the rescue of Parchamis in the past during late Noor Mohammad Taraki's and late Hafizullah Amin's rule. Moscow knows pretty well that these Khalqis would come handy should a need arise in future to replace the Parchamis now dominating the PDPA regime. The Afghan tendency to violently settle scores and resolve political differences has claimed precious lives in the past and Moscow would most certainly intervene to prevent a fresh wave of revenge killings by the warring Khalq and Parcham factions of PDPA.

An easy answer used to great effect in the past has been to send off potential rivals as ambassadors. Such tactics were employed by Taraki and Amin who bundled-off leading Parchamis including Babrak Karmal, his younger half-brother Mahmud Baryalay, Dr. Najibullah, Anahita Retezad, Nur Ahmad Nur, Abdul Wakil, etc. as Afghanistan's envoys to several world capitals following their struggle for power in 1979. Dr. Najibullah too resorted to the same practice by appointing potential

rivals like Sayyed Muhammad, Gen. Abdul Qadir and Nur Ahmad Nur as ambassadors. It is possible that Moscow would ensure that Dr. Najib's Khalqi opponents now under arrest are not executed and instead posted abroad as ambassadors.

The news about replacement of Foreign Minister Abdul Wakil and tribes and nationalities Minister Sulayman La'eq and their posting abroad as ambassadors appears implausible at this stage when Dr. Najib is trying to win widespread support in his smaller Parcham faction to counter Khalq's challenge. Both Abdul Wakil and Sulayman La'eq are leading Parchamis, members of the PDPA politburo and Najib loyalists.

Dr. Najibullah, anxious to broaden support for his government among PDPA workers and supporters, has already taken steps to replace the dismissed Khalqis with party activists who served under late president Hafizullah Amin. One such replacement is former Finance Minister Abdul Karim Misaq, who has been appointed Mayor of Kabul.

A former Justice Minister Abdul Hakim Shariac Jauzani has also been rehabilitated and made Deputy Justice Minister. Similarly, Foreign Minister Dr. Shah Wali, Information Minister Khial Mohammad Katawazi, Babrak Shinwari and several other Khalqis have also been accommodated in the party and government. Engineer Nazar Muhammad has been appointed Secretary of the PDPA Central Committee and a member of the politburo while youth leader Muhammad Ibrahim was made PDPA central committee member.

Dr. Najib has taken steps to streamline army affairs to repair damage caused by former Defence Minister Gen. Shahnawaz Tanay's coup bid. New Defence Minister Gen. Aslam Watanjar is busy reorganising the armed forces and a new Air Force Chief has been named to replace rebel Gen. Abdul Qadir Aqa. Lt. Gen. Manokay Mangal, who was hailed as the hero of Jalalabad for foiling Mujahidin attempts to capture the city last year, has been appointed head of the army's political department. Chief of Army Staff Gen. Asef Delawar, head of the Presidential Department for Defence and National Security Lt. Gen. Abdul Baqi, Deputy Defence Minister Lt. Gen. Nabi Azimi, and Lt. Gen. Zabiullah Ziarmal have been given more powers in recognition of their role in foiling last month's coup bid.

Suggesting a change in PDPA's name and calling for an end to its monopoly on power Dr. Najibullah told a recent Central Committee meeting that the party should voluntarily initiate legal steps to neutralise its privileged position in Afghanistan. His purge of Khalqis and his efforts to attract other Khalq factions along with moderate Afghan elements were primarily aimed at broadening the base of his embattled government. At the same time he has actively campaigned for his national reconciliation programme despite the recent setback it receives during a mass surrender ceremony in Pashtun Zarghun in Herat province.

The 24 Khalqis expelled from PDPA include Gen. Tanay Sayyed Muhammad Gulabzoy, Mir Saheb Karwal, Niaz Muhammad Miahmand, Gen. Nazar Muhammad, Gen. Dost Muhammad, Shazar Lewal, Gen. 'Abdul Qadir Aqa, Saleh Muhammad Ziray, Ghulam Dastagir Panshiri, 'Abdul Qadir Ashna, Muhammadullah Safi Subhani, Feda Muhammad Feda, Gen. Muhammad Hashim, Hunar Ghayrat, Khalilullah Kohestani, Rahimullah Osoli, Muhammad Hashim Watanwal, Gen. Saifullah, 'Abdul Hab, Guldad, Nur Wahab Sepand, 'Abdul Basam and 'Abdul Rashid Aryan. They include Politburo members, generals and ministers who were once the pillars of PDPA. It would be a difficult task to repair the damage to PDPA caused by their expulsion. Dr. Najib has a tough task ahead as he tries to unite his faction-ridden party as well as keep the Mujahidin at bay.

Paper Accuses West of Human Rights 'Hypocrisy'

BK2404155990 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English
24 Apr 90 p 4

[Editorial: "Chemicals Today, Stones Tomorrow!"]

[Text] The world has rarely if at all witnessed such glaring hypocrisy as the West in currently applying with regard to its prescription on human rights and obligations. But it is not the double-standards of the Western powers in themselves which should cause puzzlement. The Christian world feels genuine enough reasons to be wary of the resurgent Islam in large parts of the globe. The fears in this context may also not be entirely unfounded. The politico-economic subjugation of most of the Muslim Third World is rooted in the Western imperial system, dominated by a confluence of Christian and Zionist interests. The latest hopeful partner of this global alignment is the state of India which is taking increasing recourse to its majority Hindu community's intolerance for Muslims within the country as also elsewhere.

It is, on the other hand, the insensitivity being shown by the local managers of the Western imperial system within the Muslim world which stands out in stark contrast to the interests of the concerned societies themselves. The Western doctrine of democracy and self-determination is a very selective weapon indeed. For so long as General Ziaul Haq continued to further the then American interest of "bleeding" the Soviets in Afghanistan, not an eyebrow was raised in Washington about the representative capacity of the regime in Pakistan. However, as soon as the dictator was perceived to be advancing the cause of "fundamentalism" in Afghanistan, America considered it necessary to come out in open support of the more secular option of democracy in Pakistan.

The focus of the American concern has now shifted to the emergence of "fundamentalism" in Kashmir as also in the Middle East. While the Kashmir uprising can be hoped—albeit mistakenly—to be controlled through the active cooperation of the concerned regional states, the Palestine Intifadah has clearly gone far enough to demand constant vigilance. The latest source of Western worry in this

connection has been Mr. Saddam Husayn's bravado against the Zionist entity. It is a sorry day for humanity when the barbaric record of the Iraqi regime's treatment of Muslims within that country or beyond its borders is recalled by the champions of human rights only when Mr. Saddam Hussain threatens to use the same instruments of mass human destruction against the Zionists.

But, again, if America and Israel should get sleepless nights over the prospect which remains far from certain, that would be understandable. It is instead Mr. Mubarak's new-found compulsions to wage a crusade against chemical weapons in the region which, despite their apparent motivation, remain striking to say the least. Given such a facility on the part of the Egyptian President to use his influence among the other dictatorial regimes in the region at the behest of Washington, it wouldn't be surprising in the least if one day Mr. Husni Mubarak were to take it upon himself to banish all stones from the Middle East as they happen to be the weapon of last resort for the suffering but indomitable Palestinian resistance!

Free Kashmir Premier Warns Against Compromise

*BK2404134090 Islamabad THE PAKISTAN TIMES
in English 24 Apr 90 pp 1, 6*

[Text] Lalamusa, April 23—Prime Minister of Azad Jammu and Kashmir [AJK] Sardar Sikander Hayat Khan has expressed his apprehension that the Pakistan Foreign Ministry was compromising the rights of the people of Kashmir.

The Pakistan Government seems bent upon dealing a compromise with India on the cost of the current movement of freedom in occupied Kashmir, he added.

Addressing here last night an Iftar [breaking fast] function, Premier Sikander Hayat Khan criticised the attitude of the Foreign Ministry charging that certain lobbies in the ministry were endeavouring hard to put once again the Kashmir issue in the cold storage. He said that twice before the rights of the Kashmiris were sold out at Tashkent and Simla. The same process is being reactivated in New York, he warned. But the people of Kashmir would not accept any such pact or agreement in which their viewpoint is not incorporated, he added.

Azad Jammu and Kashmir Prime Minister demanded of Pakistan Government to keep a firm vigil on the unmindful lobby in its foreign office.

He accused the People's Party of putting an end to the Kashmir issue by turning Azad Kashmir into a province of Pakistan.

He expressed regrets that the Federal Government was stopping funds for Azad Kashmir. "It tried to obstruct the running democratic system in AJK but, thank God, we are making our march believing in our own merit."

He also charged that in the current electioneering the Federal Government was using its controlled media unilaterally.

Foreign Minister Urges Pressure on India

*BK2404114890 Islamabad Domestic Service
in English 1100 GMT 24 Apr 90*

[Text] Pakistan has urged the member countries of the Nonaligned Movement to exert pressure on India to honor its obligation under the UN Security Council resolution to allow the people in held Kashmir to determine their future through a plebiscite.

Speaking at the meeting of the Nonaligned Movement in New York, the foreign minister, Sahabzada Yaqub Khan, said that the people in occupied territory have launched a valiant struggle against Indian occupation because of the long denial to them of their right to self-determination.

Referring to the Afghan conflict, Sahabzada Yaqub Khan said that the internal conflict continues there unabated following the Soviet troops withdrawal because of the Kabul regime's refusal to transfer power to a broad-based representative government acceptable to the people of that country.

Jamaat-i-Islami Protests Indian Acts in Kashmir

*BK2404162590 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu
1500 GMT 24 Apr 90*

[Text] Jamaat-i-Islami has held a protest demonstration in Islamabad today to condemn Indian atrocities in occupied Kashmir. The demonstration began at Faizabad in Rawalpindi and ended at Dastoor Highway in Islamabad [as heard].

Later, a brief delegation, headed by the chief of Jamaat-i-Islami, Senator Qazi Hussain Ahmad, went to the Indian High Commission and presented a memorandum to an official of the mission, urging the Indian Government to allow the people of occupied Kashmir to exercise their right to self-determination and to stop any and all atrocities against them.

Envoy at UN Replies to Indian Charges

*BK2504094090 Islamabad Overseas Service
in English 0800 GMT 25 Apr 90*

[Text] At the special ministerial meeting of nonaligned countries at the UN Headquarters, Pakistan has rejected Indian charges of interference in held Jammu and Kashmir. Replying to the speech of the Indian delegate at the meeting, the Pakistani ambassador to the world body, Mr. Nasim Ahmad, pointed out that the struggle of the people in occupied territories is indigenous, popular, and spontaneous. He drew the attention of the world to the fact that the Indian authorities have banned a representative of [word indistinct] as well as electronic media in held Kashmir, just like the Pretoria regime in South Africa.

The Pakistani delegate said the Kashmir issue is an international one. India had committed itself under the

UN resolution and international agreements to provide an opportunity to the Kashmiri people to exercise their right of self-determination.

7,500 Kashmiri Refugees Flee Indian 'Repression'

*BK2504033890 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu
0200 GMT 25 Apr 90*

[Text] Azad Kashmir Prime Minister Sardar Sikander Hayat Khan says that the repression and violence let loose by the Indian security forces in occupied Kashmir has forced 7,500 persons to cross the border to take refuge in Azad Kashmir. Addressing a press conference in Islamabad last night, he said camps have been set up to look after these refugees.

Bhutto To Discuss Relations With Japan's Kaifu

*BK2504035290 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu
0200 GMT 25 Apr 90*

[Text] Prime Minister Ms. Benazir Bhutto has reiterated her offer to start talks concerning a political settlement of the Kashmir issue with India. In an interview with a Japanese news service, she said India cannot hope to solve the Kashmir problem without paying attention to the demands of the people in the occupied Jammu and Kashmir.

Ms. Bhutto asked India to have no illusions of war because that would not solve the problem but would rather adversely affect both countries' economies. She discounted Indian allegations that Pakistan is training Kashmiri freedom fighters and declared that no degree of threat can deter Pakistan from providing political, diplomatic, and moral support to the people of Kashmir.

The prime minister said Pakistan is looking forward to the visit of Japanese Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu who is arriving in Pakistan on 2 May as part of his Asian tour. She said his visit will enable both countries to review the regional situation and bilateral matters. She would discuss both the Kashmir and Afghanistan issues with the Japanese prime minister. She will ask Mr. Kaifu to use his influence in connection with a political solution of the Afghan issue that could lead to the induction of a representative government in Afghanistan.

Referring to the successes of her government, Ms. Benazir Bhutto said she would talk about many important achievements, but foremost among them is the acquisition of a French nuclear power plant. This success has enabled Pakistan to vindicate its stand, and other than making us self-sufficient in the field of energy, it has engendered confidence in the people of Pakistan. She said she is proud that she has established the rule of law in the country because this is particularly difficult to do in the Third World countries.

Delhi TV Reports Launch of Anti-'Arafat Campaign

*BK2504021290 Delhi Doordarshan Television
Network in English 1600 GMT 24 Apr 90*

[Text] In Pakistan, a number of political and non-political organizations have mounted a campaign against the PLO chairman, Mr. Yasir 'Arafat, for his views on Kashmir. In a recent joint meeting, the Lahore District and High Court Bar Association demanded a ban on Mr. 'Arafat's entry in Pakistan. The Frontier Province Muslim League secretary general, Mr. Tahir Mahmud, even demanded closure of the Palestine embassy in Pakistan.

It may be recalled that Mr. 'Arafat recently expressed the view that any problem between India and Pakistan should be settled under the Simla Agreement.

PRC Cites 'Bad Weather' in Closing Border Pass

*BK2404104490 Hong Kong AFP in English 1029 GMT
24 Apr 90*

[Text] Islamabad, April 24 (AFP)—Beijing authorities have closed the Khunjerab pass border crossing with Pakistan "due to bad weather," Chinese Embassy officials here said Tuesday [24 April]. Visa applicants are being turned back as the annual tourist season that starts on May 1 approaches and officials said they had "no information" on when tourism through the pass—Pakistan's main land link with China—would be resumed.

"I am awaiting information," a visa officer told AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE, adding that the crossing had been closed "due to bad weather."

"As far as I know the road is bad and it is blocked at many places," the official added.

Businessmen are stranded in the northern towns of Gilgit and Gulmit while travel agents here said they had cancelled trips arranged annually via the Karakoram highway linking Pakistan with China.

Curfew Imposed in Turbat Following Clashes

*BK2304154190 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu
1500 GMT 23 Apr 90*

[Text] An indefinite curfew has been imposed in Turbat following clashes between two groups over the last two days. ASSOCIATED PRESS OF PAKISTAN, quoting official sources, reported that the situation is under complete control and patrolling by law enforcement agencies is continuing in the city.

One Killed, Two Injured in Karachi Shooting

*BK2404155190 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu
1500 GMT 24 Apr 90*

[Text] Some unidentified assailants resorted to shooting at the Pakistan Steel Mill in Karachi today, killing one person and injuring two. Both the injured have been admitted to Abbasi Shaheed hospital.